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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE session is coming to a close as tranquilly as the most ordinary sessions have been in the habit of doing. All political opposition to the Ministry seems to have been abandoned; and the Whigs can now only hope that next session they will catch them making some hitch in their Reform Bill. Even this, however, is not a very hopeful look-out; for if their Reform Bill be at all tolerable, it will secure the support of that section of the Liberals which has supported them hitherto. So deep is the discontent of the Liberal party with those Whig nobles who have so long traded on their loyalty and credulity for their own special benefit.

This political position is so peculiar that it has set people again referring to those general political questions which, at ordinary times, are kept in abeyance. Journalists favour us with disquisitions on "Liberalism" and "Conservatism," and we are sometimes angrily asked what right a Conservative Ministry has to do anything liberal at all? The propounder of such queries would be puzzled were he to be asked in turn (which would be perfectly fair), What right a Liberal Ministry has to conserve anything? One question is surely as plausible as another. If no Conservative has a right to change anything, we cannot see why a Liberal should be allowed to leave anything alone. Yet, when we have a Liberal Ministry, we do not find that they are perpetually taking everything down to build it up again. They have to acquiesce in the use of establishments, as well as their neighbours; and, indeed, their tendency usually is to alter too little rather than too much. From them, then, such taunts as we have mentioned, fall very flat: they are attempts to force upon other people, a rigidity of action which they would not tolerate a moment themselves.

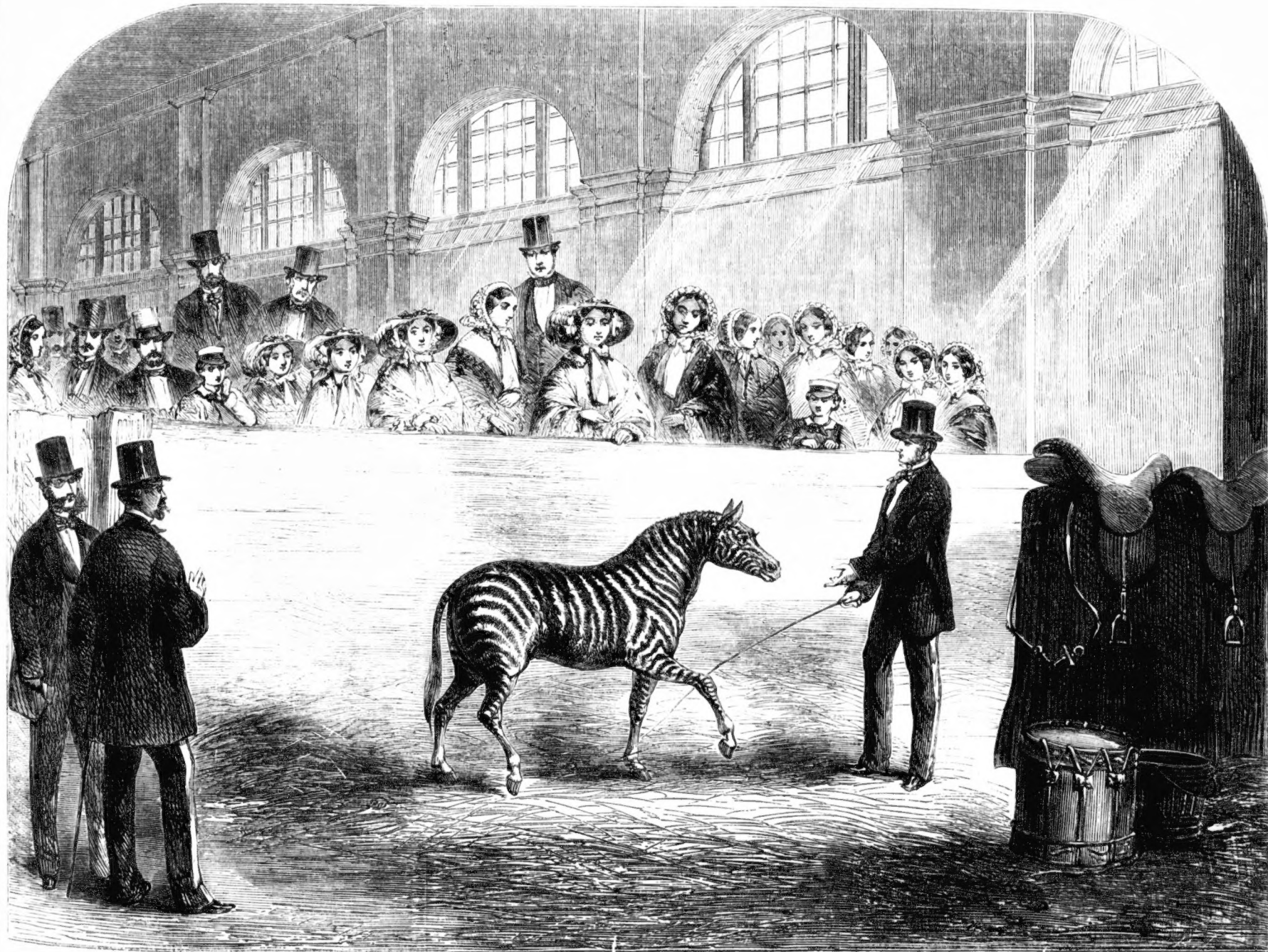
The truth is, that it is neither possible nor desirable now, to carry out what are called "party" principles into extremes; and for this plain reason, that the predominant interest of England does not require it to be done. There can be no doubt that Party has been at various periods a useful thing to England,

but the periods have made it so, and not it itself. Party, for its own sake, is faction—which all agree to condemn—and nothing makes party admirable but its utility. That utility, however, only arises with special occasions. It was highly necessary that there should be a party to oppose the American war. It was inevitable that there should be parties during the French war. But now, in the times in which we live—at all events, at this present time—there is no such commanding necessity. What all sensible men want is Orderly Progression, which is more secured by good administration, than by any adhesion to views. There is no reason why a Conservative Ministry should not forward this, as well as a Liberal one. It is the common interest of the country, which does not require political so much as social interests to be made predominant. The Whigs want Lord Derby to stand out against every change as he would if the Crown was in danger. We wonder if they think it inconsistent in a Conservative to change his shirt? For, to object to that process, would be about as wise as to oppose every little alteration, on the sole ground that it was an alteration. There used to be statesmen who went *that* length. But there was some excuse for those old Tories. They had been accustomed from their cradles to expect Bonaparte over here to declare a Republic, and they thought it safest to let change alone till that possibility went by.

Such speculations as these break the monotony of a session, which is ending in flying from a stench, and a season which is going for excitement to Cremorne. But, at least, the session has produced in the India Bill one of the most important pieces of work of late years, not only in itself, but in the proofs it has afforded of the skill, tact, and labour of Lord Stanley. We have had occasion several times to discuss its provisions; and its progress through committee exhibits several interesting points. One-tenth of the cadetships was voted to be the share of Indian officers—an excellent provision, though attacked, of course, as "sentimental," by those who cannot understand the wisdom that lies in generosity. The principle of competition

was established in the case of appointments to the Artillery and Engineers, the scientific branches of the service. With regard to the remaining cadetships, they are divided between the secretary and the Council in such proportions that of every seventeen the secretary is to have two, and each member of council one; every nomination, however, requiring to be confirmed by the secretary. Here we have a compromise between the powers, which is the only way, it seems to us, by which opposite mischiefs can be avoided. It will be necessary to recur to the bill again, of course, but, meanwhile, these clauses are good specimens of the care with which it has been drawn up.

When we turn to foreign affairs, we find little to break the spell of quiet which July is apt to produce on the mind. This is Napoleon's yearly period of repose, and the correspondents take with more energy than ever to mere rumours. But the French plan of establishing a telegraphic communication between the coast towns and harbours is worth noticing, as one more indication of the care with which everything pertaining to that country's military efficiency is looked after. We need not have a "panic," but not one of these strokes of forethought and readiness should pass unnoticed in this country. The American "difficulty" seems to have blown over altogether, but, judging from the speech of Mr. Dallas on their great national festival-day, not without results. Our Government has abandoned, he tells his countrymen, the right of visit and search. This ends all controversy on a subject which otherwise must have resulted, we think, at some time, in downright hostilities. Our officers will now have to trust their own shrewdness in judging whether a craft under Yankee colours be really a Yankee, and if they make a mistake, will incur a risk. But now that the offensive part of the business is abolished, it is not too much to expect from Americans an equal liberality in treating those errors which must infallibly be made at some time in such a work as looking out for slavers. They cannot intend that their flag should cover all the scum of mankind who run human cargoes between Africa and the West Indies.



MR. PAREY, WITH THE TAMED ZEBRA BEFORE THE QUEEN.

It is with great regret that we once more see the failure of the attempt to sink the Atlantic cable. The question is out of the range of ordinary discussion, even more than most of those questions on which more common sense without technical knowledge is allowed a little comment. The "Times" suggestion that the *Leviathan* should be chartered for a new attempt, has a certain imposing grandeur about it. We are apt to hail a project which would employ the biggest of all ships in the vastest of all marine operations. At the same time, we cannot but see that so far both have been failures, and that their union might only make a still more conspicuous and melancholy one. The fact, however, is, that this is merely a question for the public. Like the state of the Thames, the more public can only throw it helplessly on the engineers and men of science. We go to these functionaries in our perplexity as we go to a doctor when we are sick. But we can better afford to wait for the Atlantic to be mastered by science than for the Thames to be purified by it. The Parliamentary committee on the latter subject, seems to sit only to make its difficulties apparent. For instance, we are told often how much might be made of the sewage as manure. Yet this kind of manure does not "pay" at Leicester, at Cheltenham, or at Croydon. Again, we are told that it ought to be made useful in the Essex marshes; yet to this the answer is, that they are rich enough already. The only plan about which there seems some tolerable degree of unanimity is that of deodorisation—at best a partial expedient, and, it would seem, not always a complete one. Still, we must do what we can to break the force of a nuisance too great for sudden abolition. And probably a modification of the bad features of the river is the best we shall ever attain, work how we may. The increase of building and population must necessarily damage the old "silver" characteristics of rivers, as it has destroyed the rural character of their shores. It has checked the supply of salmon in the Tweed for years back. In short, something must be sacrificed everywhere as population increases and life changes, though it does not of course follow that we should sacrifice the health of a great city, all the same.

MR. RAREY EXHIBITING BEFORE HER MAJESTY.

AFTER the conquest of Cruiser, that most vicious of horses, the taming of a zebra has been Mr. Rarey's greatest achievement. It had been hitherto supposed, indeed, that zebras were altogether untamable; otherwise, what dashing teams of those striped and fiery little animals should we have seen in the park, and at the doors of the patent theatres! However, Mr. Rarey has succeeded in civilising this wild child of nature, and La Belle Fotheringay may yet drive a pair of zebras in that surprising little phaeton of hers. But the horse-tamer did not accomplish his task in this case without difficulty. The zebra took many lessons before he exhibited any satisfactory indications of a reformed character; at length, however, the skill which softened the asperities of Cruiser's temper prevailed, and the zebra was last week presented before her Majesty, at the riding-school in the Royal Mews, a subdued animal. The Prince Consort, the King of the Belgians, the Duke and Duchess of Brabant, the Count of Flanders, and the Princess Alice, were also present.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE Emperor is at Plombières, where he was received with the acclamation due to the saviour of his country.

Count Walewski has notified to the German Federal Diet that there is not a word of truth in the rumour assigning warlike designs to the French Government.

It is currently reported that Admiral Hamelin will give in his resignation as Minister of Marine. The importance of that post has been considerably diminished by the separation of the colonial branch, which now belongs to the department of Prince Napoleon as Minister for Algeria. There seems to be some doubt, too, whether Marshal Randon will retain his post of Governor-General of Algeria after the formation of a special ministry for that dependency and the appointment of Prince Napoleon.

The young Prince of Oude has arrived in Paris.

SPAIN.

THE Isturitz Cabinet has fallen to pieces, and a new Ministry has been formed. General O'Donnell is at the head of affairs; Senor Calderon Collantes, Foreign Minister; Senor Negrete, Minister of Grace and Justice; Senor Salvaterra, Minister of Finance; Senor Corbera, Minister of Public Works; Senor Pisada da Herrera, Minister of the Interior; Senor Masoeda, Minister of Marine. The new Ministry is said to be making a complete clearance of the higher functionaries.

There has been some talk of demanding a "just reparation" for the insults on Spain in the House of Lords—*apropos* of the slave trade.

PRUSSIA.

THE powers of the Prince of Prussia are extended for three months longer.

RUSSIA.

A CONTRACT for a loan of between 30,000,000 and 40,000,000 roubles was published at St. Petersburg on the 29th ult. It is to be raised exclusively in Russia.

An insurrectionary movement of a rather formidable character has appeared in Estonia, on the shores of the Baltic. Armed bands of peasants destroy and pillage the seats of the nobility, commit murder wholesale, and defeat all attempts of the garrison to restore order.

ITALY.

THE Neapolitan Supreme Tribunal has, notwithstanding the restitution of the *Cagliari*, decided that she was a lawful prize, and that her captors are entitled to prize-money. By this decision the Government will be borne out in their resolution to refuse all indemnity for the detention of the *Cagliari*.

The King of Naples has had the grace to degrade a colonel for eating his soldiers.

Sanctuary conflicts between the French and the native soldiery have taken place in Rome.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

THE Porte has promised to the French Ambassador at Constantinople not to send any further reinforcements to the frontiers of Montenegro.

It is rumoured at Constantinople that Ali Pacha, the Grand Vizier, is about to retire. We read in a contemporary that, according to report, "he said to a functionary, who had come to pay him a visit, that he regretted being in power at a moment when the Turkish empire was menaced with ruin on every side." That imprudent expression was repeated, and produced a very bad effect in high quarters. The state of the finances is getting every day worse and worse. It is matter of public notoriety that the Treasury contains nothing, and the Minister of Finance is endeavouring to negotiate a loan of 500,000 piastres, to pay a month's interest on the last loan of sixty millions.

The Government has agreed to make ample reparation for the late outrage on our consul at Belgrade.

AMERICA.

THERE is no political news of importance from America. New York has been visited by a fearful tornado, and though its duration was but half-an-hour, its effects were most disastrous.

Churches, houses, &c., suffered immensely, carts and carriages were blown over, trees were uprooted in all directions, and several people were killed. Generally the shipping did not sustain much damage.

The floods in the west have abated, but the destruction already caused is immense. It is estimated that 33,000,000 dollars worth of property has been destroyed, and the lands from which the crops are washed will be unproductive for two or three years to come.

Mexican advices (per New Orleans) report that Sonora was in a state of the most complete anarchy. Guaymas was unsuccessfully besieged for one week by 2,000 Indians. Whole villages had been burned, and the population murdered. Santa Cruz de Mayo had been entered by Indians, and every man killed. The women and children were confined in a church, and burnt with the rest of the town.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

THE war between the Boers and the Basutos was still raging at the date of latest advices. Two Basuto towns and two French mission stations had been destroyed. The Boers had advanced within sight of their enemy's stronghold, where three-fourths of them hastily decamped; the Basutos in the meantime had made heavy reprisals on the Boers' farms. At the request of the President of the Boer state, Sir George Grey was about to act as mediator. The Cape Parliament stipulated that the colony was on no account to be involved in the war.

Dr. Livingstone's expedition sailed from Table Bay on April 27, for the Zambesi. An elegant silver box, containing 800 guineas, had been presented to Dr. Livingstone, as a testimonial, by the colonists. The people whom the Doctor left at Tete were still waiting for him. A proposal was made by the Governor to establish five intermediate posts between the Colony and the Zambesi, to insure a line of monthly communication.

The *Hermes* was despatched with the Livingstone expedition to the Zambesi river.

FRAY BETWEEN ROMAN AND PRUSSIAN SOLDIERY.—A serious fray took place recently in Rome, between detachments of French and Roman soldiers, in the neighbourhood of the Coliseum, the combatants pelting and hawking each other, to the terror and delight of the beholders, who collected in crowds, without taking part in the quarrel. His Holiness's warriors being at last outnumbered by their Gallic foes, took to flight, in the direction of the Capitol, and were ignominiously chased under the very nose of Marcus Aurelius's equestrian statue down the opposite ascent, where most of them succeeded in escaping. The fray was renewed in the evening, when the field-wards of victory reversed their previous award, the French getting the worst of the engagement, especially as they had to encounter some hard blows from the mob, who got too excited to remain simple lookers-on.

THE DEARTH OF LABOUR IN DEMERARA.—The Combined Court of Demerara has passed a resolution confirming the resolution adopted in November last to the effect, "That a large number of those implicated in the East India rebellion, who have been led or forced into the revolt by others, but who, nevertheless, have not taken part in any act of great atrocity, might be safely and advantageously received into this colony with their wives and families." The Court has also expressed its opinion that if "a number, not exceeding 1,000, of the graver class of mutineers or other Indian convicts, who may be sentenced to penal servitude for life, or for long terms, might with advantage be transported to this colony, to be employed on public works, on the understanding that the cost of their passage here shall be defrayed by the Government of India, and that of their maintenance here from the time of their arrival by the Government of this colony." Six thousand immigrants have been applied for already for the season 1858-9. The Court has also pledged itself to defray the cost of the introduction of female Chinese immigrants.

HUMBOLDT ON THE IMPORTATION OF SLAVES.—The German papers publish an extract from a letter addressed by M. Humboldt to M. Probel, who is well known as a defender of the negro in America, in which he recommends him to continue to struggle against "that imposture called the importation of free negroes, which is only a pretext for encouraging slave-hunting in Africa." After this decisive expression of his opinion, the illustrious author of "Cosmos" exclaims, "What dreadful things a man who has lived from 1750 to 1838 is condemned to see!"

A RELIC OF MUNGO PARK.—A relic of Mungo Park's travels in Africa has been discovered by Lieutenant Glover, of Bulke's West Coast Expedition. The incident is thus related by the "Cape Literary Magazine":—"Lieutenant Glover, one of the officers under the command of Captain Bulke, has stumbled upon a valuable relic of Mungo Park, and has of course secured it. Passing through a native village near the scene of Park's melancholy death, an old man recognised the Lieutenant, and showed him a book which had for years been in his possession. It was a volume of logarithms, with Mungo Park's name, and autograph notes and memoranda. The possessor offered it to Mr. Glover for 200,000 cowries. Inestimable as the prize was, the price demanded was enormous, and it was impossible to pay it. After some consideration, the Lieutenant took from his pocket a clasp-knife, and asked the native what he thought of that. This was too tempting a bait to be refused; the native joyfully took the knife, and the Lieutenant still more joyfully secured his valuable memento of the distinguished African traveller."

VINDICTIVE TO THE DEATH.—A singular story of vindictiveness carried to the verge of the grave is told in a letter from Vienna, where we read:—"A few days ago a Baron Silberstein died here, and after his death no money was found in the house, although he had always passed for a wealthy man. Inquiries were made by his heir, and on its being discovered that a banker had paid into his hands the sum of 170,000 florins but a few days before his death, his valet was arrested by the police on suspicion of having made away with the money. As the man said that his master left his bed a couple of days before he died in order to burn some papers, the stove in his bed-room was searched. Nothing but the remains of documents was found, and the servant was kept in custody until it occurred to some one that it might be as well to examine the other stoves. The examination was made, and the numerous remains of bank-notes of 1,000 florins each proved the innocence of the valet and the destructiveness of his master. The Baron, who was divorced from his wife, often expressed doubts about the legitimacy of his only son, and in order that he should profit as little as possible by his death, he burned bank-notes of the value of 162,000 florins (£16,200)."

LABOUR AND DISTRESS IN CANADA.—Sir Cusack Roncy has replied to the allegations about the distress in Canada. He contends that, although a great number of persons were thrown out of employment by the late commercial panic in the chief towns, and although in Toronto "the white-headed class" of emigrants do not find the sort of work they would like to do, there is yet a serious want of ready labourers and mechanics in the agricultural districts. Sir C. Roncy says that "the replies to the circular issued by the Canadian Minister of Agriculture at the commencement of this year to the several municipalities show that between 15,000 and 16,000 of the labouring classes were actually required in those municipalities (not half of the total number) that had sent replies up to the date at which an analysis of them had been forwarded to this country," and he roundly declares that "if the 4,000 or 5,000 persons now said to be idle at Toronto will go into the country districts, every one of them, whether man, woman, boy, or girl above twelve years of age, that is worth his or her salt, will at once obtain increasing employment, good wages, and good diet."

AN ADVENTURE AT SEA.—The brig *Isabel* Beermann sailed from New York for Port-au-Prince on the 15th ult., and on the next day the brig *Caroline* also sailed thence for Aspinwall. The latter vessel had proceeded about 150 miles from Sandy Hook, when she discovered what looked like an abandoned vessel. She sailed close to the wreck, and found her to be the *Isabel* Beermann, which had evidently been in collision with another ship. Her sails were down, her bowsprit broken off, and in tow of the vessel by the ropes forming part of the rigging. Her mainmast was also trailing over her quarter in the water, her foremast was damaged, and her starboard bow was cloven by a collision with another vessel several inches below the water-mark. The mate of the *Caroline* determined to attempt bringing the wrecked vessel to port, and two men volunteered their assistance. The wreck was hauled, and found to contain more than six feet of water, and to be leaking badly. In another half-hour she must have sunk, for her main deck was already on a level with the water. Captain Whiteburg, of the *Caroline*, hoisted his own vessel to, while the whole of his crew, with the exception of the cook, were set to work on the wreck for the purpose of pumping her. Towards the evening all the water was removed from her hold, the portions of wreck were cleared away, old canvas was applied to the bow to keep the water out, and the three men were then left to navigate the ship, the *Caroline* proceeding on her voyage. A series of light breezes fortunately prevailed, and though, when the *Isabel* Beermann arrived within twelve miles of Sandy Hook, those on board were alarmed by a squall, she got safe into harbour at New York. The value of the vessel and cargo is estimated at 40,000 dollars, and of this a large amount must go for salvage to reward the brave men who risked their lives to rescue her from total destruction. The vessel that came in collision with the brig was the whaling-ship *Spartan*, which took the crew and passengers of the wreck on board.

TWO ELEGANT SILVER SERVICES, manufactured as prizes for the Burton-on-Trent Coursing Club, are on view at Messrs. London and Ryder's, of 17, New Bond Street, successors to Mr. T. Hancock, who retired.

THE INDIAN REVOLT.

THE Bombay mail arrived in London on Saturday, but brought no important intelligence beyond that already communicated by telegraph.

Calpee was invested, it appears, on the 16th of May, and captured on the 23rd—Brigadier Maxwell co-operating from the left bank of the Jumna with Sir Hugh Rose's force.

On the 22nd the rebels attacked the front and right line of Sir Hugh Rose's force at his camp, Agowlee, on the Jumna, in large numbers and with great determination. Sir Hugh Rose's right being hard pressed, the Camel Corps was brought up, the rebels were charged with the bayonet, and put to flight. Sir Hugh Rose's whole line then moved forward, and the rout became general. Calpee being their last retreat, the sepoy had sworn to destroy Sir Hugh Rose's force. On the morning of the 23rd instant, Sir Hugh Rose marched from Agowlee against Calpee; the rebels were panic-struck, and fled with great precipitation, after firing a few shots, leaving Sir Hugh Rose master of the town and fort of Calpee. The cavalry and horse artillery were sent in pursuit. The officer commanding the pursuit reports that he quickly came up with the rebels, and killed a great number, and all their guns and ammunition were taken. Colonel Maxwell shelled the town and fort of Calpee, from the left bank of the Jumna, with great effect. A subterranean magazine was discovered in the fort, containing four hundred barrels of powder, and immense quantities of ordnance stores. In the town and fort, foundries and manufactories of cannon were discovered, and several brass guns made thereat; and also a box containing most important correspondence belonging to the Rance of Jhansi, which throws great light on the revolt and its principal authors. Everything proves that the rebels considered Calpee and its arsenal a point of great importance. Colonel Robertson, at the head of a flying column, was following up the fugitives, who were making for the fort of Shapur.

We learn from Hooshearpore that on the night of the 5th of May, a plot was providentially discovered. It appears that some sepoy of the 1st wing 4th Regiment, N.I., variously estimated at from fifteen to twenty in number, had conspired to murder their officers and then to desert. The plot was discovered only an hour or two previous to the time appointed for putting it into execution. Prompt measures were adopted, the wing was paraded and kept on the ground, the bayonets of all the men were removed, and the lines searched. A considerable quantity of arms was discovered in and about the lines. Six of the conspirators paid the penalty of their intended crime on the gallows, and four were sentenced to transportation, three for life, and one for fourteen years. The plot would have ensured the murder of every European in the station. The rascals were then to have made their escape to Rohilkund.

The Rajah of Shorapore has committed suicide. The Rajah, a young man of twenty-three, had been tried for levying war against the British Government. He was sentenced to transportation for life, and was sent from Secunderabad, under an escort of eighty non-commissioned rank and file of the 9th, 10th, and 49th Madras Native Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Pietet. His destination was Chingleput, where he was to remain till transported to some penal settlement. The Rajah's hands and legs were ironed. On arrival at Umbarrapett, twelve miles from Secunderabad, he was unhanded, in order that he might take his breakfast, the leg-irons still being kept. He was then placed in a dhooly, and the dhooly was placed inside a two-poled tent, doubled sentinels, facing inwards on each side of the dhooly, being posted inside the tent. By and by, the report of fire-arms was heard, and on Lieutenant Pietet arriving at the tent, he found the Rajah in the agonies of death. The unfortunate man expired in about ten minutes afterwards. It appears that, when the handcuffs were taken off, a belt to which was attached a revolver, was taken from the Rajah. The revolver was laid on the dhooly pole, and given in charge of the sentries. The question is, was the Rajah allowed by the sentries to obtain possession of the revolver? This has not yet been shown. The two sentries are, it seems, Mussulmans. They are prisoners, and an investigation was to be made. The Rajah shot himself in the stomach.

It is said that the Rajah of Gondah in Oude has commenced a campaign against those chiefs of note who have been mentioned in the British proclamation as of undoubted loyalty.

The Governor-General has offered a reward of 500 rupees, and two villages, for the head of Dara Singh, who is serving with the Nena. The Nena sent some spies to watch the Governor-General at Allahabad, who were arrested, and stated that they had been promised Co.'s Rs. 100 each.

All the barracks at Allahabad have been destroyed by fire, and the utmost confusion prevailed at the time. The conflagration is ascribed to incendiarism.

A large party of rebels, having attempted to cross the Ganges, near Bijnor, were drowned by a sudden rise of the river, supposed to have been occasioned by the melting of the snow on the mountains.

The "Englishman" says, "We understand that accounts of an unsatisfactory nature have been received from Assam, and that, in consequence, 100 sailors have been despatched to Dacca. Perhaps Government may find reason to regret having allowed the Rajah to escape punishment."

Letters from Chandah, in the Nagpore territories, mention that Mr. Gardan, of the electric telegraph department, had been cruelly murdered by a gang of marauders in the village of Arpeille, 110 miles south of Nagpore. A large force were on the spot, burning the villages of the rebel chiefs, while 400 Irregular Horse pursued the ruffians, who took to flight.

The pseudo-Rajah of Sattara has been arrested at that place on a charge of treason, and was conveyed a prisoner to Bombay. His ultimate destination was to be Seinde.

Major Waterfield, of the Bengal army, was murdered on the 14th of May, while travelling towards Agra, by a body of rebels who crossed the Grand Trunk Road.

From Rajpootana, there are reports that the Thakoor of Awah had again revolted, and taken to the field with a small force.

An officer attached to the Gorkha force, before the prize agents were appointed, possessed himself of a diamond, for which the well-known Jotepeersa offered twenty lakhs of rupees.

Lord Canning continued to reside at Allahabad, whither, it was said, Sir Colin Campbell would shortly proceed.

BURNING OF THE SARAH SANDS.—When the screw steamship *Sarah Sands* caught fire, 400 miles from the Mauritius, on her way to Oolcutta, with the 54th Regiment on board, the men composing her crew distinguished themselves in a manner which induced the Board of Trade to apply to the brokers of the ship for their names. After much difficulty, and by sending to the other side of the globe, the names were obtained and forwarded to Whitehall. The Board has just written to Captain Castle that, "since making the request my Lords have carefully considered the provisions of the Act which enables them to grant rewards for gallantry in saving life at sea, and they have come to the conclusion that, although they are most deeply impressed with the very unusual courage, energy, and good discipline evinced by yourself and others on the occasion in question, they doubt whether the Act of Parliament would justify them in granting rewards in this case, and they fear that they could not grant such rewards without setting a precedent which might lead them hereafter into very great difficulties."

HOW THE MONEY GOES.—A return to an order of the House of Commons gives us the cost of re-fitting and re-commissioning in 1858 the following ships, which were paid off in 1857. In this estimate is included the value of the stores returned as no longer serviceable when the ships were paid off, and also of those which were supplied in their place:—

Name.	Expense of re-fitting on re-commission in 1858.
Duke of Wellington	£17,650
Arrogant	19,913
Crossy	7,313
Nile	13,772
Euryalus	10,825
Exmouth	11,912

That is to say, in the aggregate, this series of operations has cost the country no less a sum than £81,365.

IRELAND.

DECREASE OF CRIME IN IRELAND.—The Inspectors-General of Prisons in Ireland have issued their report for the last year. They say:—"For six successive years the Inspectors-General of Prisons have recorded a large and progressive decrease of crime in Ireland, and for the year 1857 we are enabled to make a similarly gratifying report."

SCOTLAND.

ELECTION OF A REPRESENTATIVE PEER.—The election of a Representative Peer for Scotland in the room of Lord Morton took place, with all due pomp and ceremony, last week, in the Picture Gallery of Holyrood Palace. Seven Peers were present. There were two candidates, the Earl of Caithness and the Earl of Perth. On a division, Lord Caithness received the votes of thirty-four peers, seven of whom were present, while the rest voted by proxy. There were twenty-two votes for Lord Perth, of whom nineteen were proxies. The Whig vote carried the election of Lord Caithness.

THE PROVINCES.

ADVENTURES OF A SNAKE.—One day last week, as some workmen at Liverpool were unloading a wagon of logwood which had recently arrived from Liverpool, one of them observed what he supposed to be the tail of a large worm protruding from a hole in one of the logs. Seizing hold of the worm he drew it out; it was a snake of about three feet long, and of a blackish colour. When first touched it uttered a sort of whistle, and when cast upon the ground it wriggled, hissed, and twisted about, emitting a dark red, from its forked tongue and vicious-looking mouth. It was remarkably vigorous and active after its long journey. The reptile is reputed to be a very venomous species.

UNUSUAL HALLUCINATION.—A harmless-looking man, who said he was twenty-four years of age, was brought before the magistrates at the Leeds Police-house, on Saturday, under the following circumstance:—"That morning he went to the police-office, attired in a shabby military uniform, with a helmet, and armed with a piece of painted wood about six feet in length, on which was written, 'Any person abusing this staff will be put in irons.' He asked the superintendent on duty for money to pay his fare to London, stating that he was General Lord James Miller, one of the Queen's commissioners, and that he was about to proceed to London by special command of her Majesty. The officer saw that he was under an hallucination, and brought him before the magistrates. A letter was found in his possession, of which the following is a copy:—"Buckingham Palace, the 24th April, in the year of our Lord, 1858. To General Lord James Miller, enclosed is a gold medal, for your faithful services, to be worn by you at all times. I am surprised that you have not arrived in London before this time. There must be some mistake with the telegraph, as I requested your company immediately, and I am in great need of your advice at this critical time. If the station-master has made any mistake, you must reprimand him, if you don't pay him off. I remain, your loving Sovereign, VICTORIA, R.S. Besure and come off immediately. If Mr. Jaffrey has not money enough, you must apply to Mr. Thomas Denholm, grocer, and he will place it to my account.—VICTORIA, R." He had also a pocket-book, in which was written, 'Presented to the Right Hon. General Lord Miller, Earl of Dunbar and Orkney, by her Majesty the Queen and Board of Ordnance, and by the other authorities and provost.' In reply to the magistrates' inquiries, the poor fellow said he belonged to the county of Haddington, East Lothian, and had walked from thence, having been a fortnight on the road. He insisted that he was General Lord Miller, and warned the magistrates that if they punished him they would be dismissed from their office by her Majesty. The bench instructed the parish authorities to take charge of him.

FATAL BOILER EXPLOSION.—A boiler exploded at Ebbw Vale, in Monmouthshire, recently, and four lives were lost. It seems that there was no steam gauge on the boiler, and that on Saturday night the engine-man fastened down the steam valve. On Monday morning the man re-remembered the fire, ignorant that the steam valve was fastened down. As the pressure of steam overbalanced the weight of the safety valve, of course it escaped. The man then thought the safety valve was imperfect and pressed it down, adding weights to it. At last he sat himself upon the valve lever, until the pressure became so great as to burst the boiler. Four lives were lost, and considerable damage was done to property.

A BURGULAR SHOT.—On Friday morning an attempt was made by two men to break into the warehouse of Messrs. Wilson, shoe-knife manufacturers, of Sheffield. The thieves had climbed upon the roof of a cottage in the adjoining yard, from which easy access was obtained to the counting-house door. Some information had reached Mr. Rawson, one of the clerks residing on the premises, and accordingly he was on the watch. The thieves first attempted to force open the door leading to the counting-house, and Mr. Rawson entering a room from which he expected to be able to watch their operations, found that they had removed to the window of that room, had loosened the fastening, and one of them was in the act of raising the sash. Mr. Rawson's first idea was to retreat, and allow the fellow to get into the place, and then capture him. But the man, having caught sight of Mr. Rawson, made a movement to escape, when the latter fired at him with a gun lightly charged with small shot. The thieves succeeded in making their escape; but, from marks of blood left behind, it was clear that the shot had taken effect upon the one who was at the window. Next day a man named Taylor was apprehended. He was found to have been recently wounded with gun shot on the right hand arm; and when charged with the burglary, he replied, "They would not let us get in—they shot me before I could get in." When brought before the magistrates on Saturday for remand, he said, "I don't think I ought to be remanded, for they would not let me get in."

BOILER EXPLOSION AT MANCHESTER.—Messrs. Sharp, Stewart, and Co., engineers, of Manchester, had just completed a locomotive engine for a Russian railway, and were testing it in the yard previous to its being sent away from the works, when the boiler suddenly exploded, killing seven persons on the spot, and seriously wounding a number of others. Mr. Forsyth, (the manager), the foreman of the boiler-makers, and Mr. Nichols, a gentleman apprentice, were among the killed. Mr. Cohn, another gentleman apprentice, has since died. It appears that some of the boiler plates were defective.

SHOCKING MURDER AND SUICIDE.—A shoemaker of Stafford, named Hall, who seems to have become deranged from excitement, caused by the proceedings taken against him for illegally fishing in the preserves of the Earl of Shrewsbury, awoke in a frenzy from his sleep, chased a lodge-keeper named Cropper, who had slept with him, down stairs, and, catching him in the garden, stabbed him in the breast with his shoemaker's knife, killing him on the spot. Hall then returned to the house, and committed suicide by cutting his throat.

EMIGRATION FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.—It appears from the eighteenth general report of the Emigration Commissioners, that in the forty-three years from 1815 to 1857 inclusive, there emigrated from the United Kingdom 4,983,941 souls. Of these there went to the United States 2,830,687; to British North America, 1,170,342; to Australia and New Zealand, 613,615; and to all other places, 569,520. Of the whole emigration more than one half, viz., 2,441,082, emigrated in the eight years from 1847 to 1854 inclusive.

WEATHER WISDOM.—A weather-prophet, writing to an agricultural paper, says:—"When you wish to know what the weather is to be, go out, and select the smallest cloud you see; keep your eye upon it, and if it decreases and disappears, it shows a state of the air which will be sure to be followed by fine weather; but, if it increases in size, take your great coat with you, if you are going from home, for falling weather will not be far off. The reason is this: when the air is becoming charged with electricity, you will see every cloud attracting all lesser ones towards it, until it gathers into a shower; and, on the contrary, when the fluid is passing off or diffusing itself, then a large cloud will be seen breaking to pieces and dissolving."

THE PRICE OF CORN.—The high price of corn which has prevailed for many years seems to have yielded to the influence of successive good seasons, and a cycle of cheap food has now fairly set in. Within the last twelve months the imperial average price of wheat has fallen from 60s. per quarter to 44s. 7d. per quarter. It may at this time be interesting to look back to the periods of high and low prices of the chief necessary of life which we have had since the abolition of the corn laws in 1846. The price was then high, and advancing in consequence of the potato failure, and in that and the following years the imperial average stood thus:—In the week ending June 13, 1846, at 52s. per quarter; ditto, June 12, 1847, at 88s. 16d. per quarter. Then ensued a cycle of six years of cheapness. In the second week of June, 1848, the price was 47s. 8d. per quarter; 1849, 44s. 2d. per quarter; 1850, 39s. 10d. per quarter; 1851, 39s. 11d.; 1852, 40s. 11d.; 1853, 48s. 11d. Less favourable seasons, combined with increased consumption on the great emigration to Australia and the vast imports of gold, then produced a rapid advance in the price of corn, which was further sustained by the subsequent demand for the supply of the English and French armies and fleets during the war. The average price of wheat was, in the second week of June, 1854, 78s. 3d. per quarter; 1855, 77s. 5d.; 1856, 68s. 1d.; 1857, 66s. And now, as the effect of the excellent harvest of last year and the great promise of the present, we have the price down again in the week ending June 12, 1858, to 44s. 7d. per quarter. Thus, since the repeal of the corn laws we have had a period of two dear years, then of six cheap years, afterwards of four dear years, and now we have good reason to hope that we have reached the first of another series of cheap years.

THE STORY OF THE THELLUSSON WILL.

It is now sixty-two years since Peter Thellusson took stock of his worldly possessions, and found that he had £600,000 in money and land, of the annual value of £4,500. Peter Thellusson had satisfied the ordinary ambition of an English bourgeois—he had founded a family. Peter Isaac, the son of his youth and the prop of his house, was heir to £15,000 a year in money and land, and might claim to be a born gentleman. Peter and peccesse might have after spring in intermediate succession from the hands of that demon, of a dainty little back parlour behind the Bank. The best men upon 'Change envied the rich and prosperous Peter Thellusson, who had no object of ambition unsatisfied. Peter was of a different mind; he had not nearly money enough. Let other men be satisfied to found one family; Peter was lucky enough to have three sons, and he would found three families. It was not that he loved his sons, or his sons' sons; but it was the hope and desire of this magnificently posthumous miser to associate his name in future generations with three colossal fortunes. If he did not love his sons, he did not hate them; he was simply indifferent to everything except to his one cherished object. Peter Thellusson took the very best legal advice, and made a will. He left a few trifling legacies, probably to show that no unnatural antipathy to his children tainted that will with malice. But his great fortune was all conveyed to trustees. It was to accumulate until every man, woman, and child of the offspring of Peter, and alive or begotten at the moment of Peter's death, should also be defunct. No one of the children or grandchildren who had looked Peter in the face, or trodden in his presence, or squallied at the sound of his harsh, hard voice, should ever be the richer for Peter's wealth. "And the rich man also died." Twelve months after making this will, and sixty-one years from the present time, Peter was gathered to his unknown fathers. The will was opened, and created sensations which vibrated through the land in widening circles. Our law books picture to us the blank disappointment of the then living relatives, the gentle exclamation of a last generation of lawyers, and the gaping wonder of the general public. There were three sons and six grandsons of this malignant old merchant then alive—all destined to live the life of Tantalus; to see this great patrimonial tree growing up before them, yet never to pluck one nut of its fruit. The terms of the will enjoined, that when the last survivor of all the nine children and grandchildren should yield up his breath, then the claim was to end; the great mountain of accumulated wealth was to be divided into three portions, and one-third was to be given to each of the "eldest male lineal descendants" of his three sons. Having thus done what he liked with his own, and excluded all his living progeny from all benefit, he ends with a whim to the Legislature worthy of Shylock appealing against mercy—he had earned his money with honesty and industry, and he hoped the Legislature would not alter his will. Of course, the first thing that followed was a Chancery suit of the fattest bulk. The common-sense view of the case would have been to set aside the will, as the product of a diseased mind—a mind rendered morbid as to its disposing powers by dwelling upon an irrational object. But Lords Loughborough and Ainsley and Eldon, and judges of kindred sympathies, seem to have been led by their love of art to admire the skill with which the technicalities of our blessed real property law had been adapted to the object of this old trader. Perhaps, also, they saw something eminently sane and matter-of-fact in this good old sordid vice of accumulation, or were excited to admiration by seeing the meagre vice of man expended into something like sublimity in its gigantic proportions. The litigation went up to the House of Lords, and the will was confirmed. This affair naturally made a great noise. The Legislature took it up, and, although they would not set aside the will by an ex post facto law, they branded Peter Thellusson's memory with the imputation of "vanity, liberality, and folly;" and enacted by statute, 39th and 40th of George III., cap. 38, that the power of devising property for the purpose of accumulation shall be restrained in general to twenty-one years after the death of the testator. Persons of an arithmetical and statistical turn of mind also occupied themselves with the matter, and, with the aid of life insurance tables and Cocker, they calculated that this fund, accumulating at compound interest, could not amount to less than nine millions at the moment of distribution, and would very probably reach the tremendous figure of thirty-two millions. But "nothing is so false as facts, except figures." The calculators had forgotten to take account of that unknown quantity which must, in practical matters, be represented, not by the letter "x," but by the word "litigation." Contemporaneously with the Chancery suit to set aside the will, there was a cross-suit to have the trusts of the will performed under the direction of the Court of Chancery. That suit is now sixty years old, and, although children and grandchildren are dead, the suit is as hale and as lively as it was in their earliest youth. That suit was the true heir to Peter Thellusson, and it is still spending his money like a frolicsome young cornet. Necessarily, there were other suits. There were suits about adoptions; there were suits about other matters, so numerous that even equity lawyers, not stingy of their words, are fain to describe them as "various." The careful and improving management of the Court of Chancery has also exercised its influence upon this estate. The Yorkshire estates have participated in that excellent system, which has been so uniform in its action, that when we see a house all windowless and unpainted, tottering and decaying, we can predicate with a tone of undoubting conviction, "That property is in Chancery."

The last survivor of the nine lives died in February, 1856, and four new bills were immediately filed. The property is now to be divided, not into thirds, but into moieties. There is, however, a question raised as to who is entitled. Who were the eldest male lineal descendants of old Peter Thellusson in February, 1856? There are two who are eldest in point of lineage, and two who are eldest in point of personal age. This point is still sub judice. It would not be very difficult to guess how it will be decided; but that is no matter of ours, nor would it have been a matter of the least interest to old Peter Thellusson. His object was to make the heap very large; he evidently cared not one lock of wool as to which of his descendants might be the possessors. The public interest in this long line of litigation is confined to its general aspect. Peter Thellusson's clever scheme has turned out a foolish failure. No single Thellusson will stalk over the land, overshadowing our dukes and crushing our barons by the magnitude of his territorial possessions. No thirty-two millions of money are expended into broad acres, where men may travel and say—"B-hold the conquests of the great Peter Thellusson." Whether Lord Rendlesham and Charles Sabine Augustus Thellusson divide the estate as the eldest in lineage, or whether Thomas and Arthur take as eldest in years, we should equally desire to be able to call up old Peter Thellusson to see the division of his anticipated accumulations. The Court of Chancery has so clipped and polished his oak, that it is not much larger than when he left it. It would be fit punishment for that purse-proud, vain, cruel old man, to see that he disinherited his own children only to fatten a generation of lawyers; that he was the dupe of his own subtlety, and that his name, instead of being associated with the foundation of houses of fabulous wealth is only known in connection with an abortive scheme of vulgar vanity.—"Times."

AN INTERESTING QUESTION.—A distinguished officer, Colonel George Carpenter, C.B., fell on the field of Bismarck when leading the outlying pickets of the 2nd Brigade of the 2nd Division. Colonel Carpenter was the only son of a distinguished Indian General, and he himself had an only son, the present Capt. Carpenter, of the 7th Royal Fusiliers (who was seriously wounded at the battle of the Alma). General Carpenter survived his son but a very short time, and he died, leaving by his will (made many years ago) property amounting to nearly half a million sterling to his son, Colonel Carpenter, but which will he was unable to alter after the death of his son, being at the time nearly ninety years of age. The General left, also, an annuity of £2,000 a year to his widow, and after his death he gave the principal sum set apart to Colonel Carpenter for life, and after his death to any children he might leave; but in case of his son dying before his mother, then to other persons. Under these circumstances, the legal question has arisen on this part of the will, that as Colonel Carpenter died in the lifetime of his mother, the parties claim the property in virtue of the gift over, and commenced proceedings in Chancery, contending that Capt. Carpenter, the testator's grandson, can take nothing, as the bequest had lapsed in consequence of his father's death. The Master of the Rolls, however, taking an enlightened view of the question, held that there was an absolute gift to the child of Colonel Carpenter, it clearly having been the intention of the testator to benefit his son's children. We trust there is no chance of the decision of Sir John Romilly being reversed, because, if so, the practical effect of this romance of the law will be the disinheritance of a son and mother (for Colonel Carpenter left a widow), in consequence of the death on the field of battle of a gallant husband and father.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES.—The eighty-second anniversary of the independence of the United States was celebrated on Monday evening, by a dinner at the London Tavern. About 150 gentlemen sat down to table, the chair being filled by General Robert B. Campbell, United States Consul at London. Among others, the following gentlemen were present:—Mr. J. A. Lay, the American Minister, J. R. Croker, Esq., Captain Mangles, M.P., R. W. Kinnaird, Esq., Matthew Marshall, Esq., Benjamin Moran, Esq., G. P. Dodge, Esq., Thornton Hunt, Esq., and the Chevalier Wikoff. The speeches were full of the glorification of the American eagle.

THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.—Two very important acquisitions have lately been made at the National Portrait Gallery. One is a small portrait of Burns from the life, by Nasmyth, and touched upon by Sir Henry Raeburn. The second is a most effective portrait of Sir James Mackintosh, by Sir Thomas Lawrence.

SERIOUS RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Two very serious accidents, to which we could only advert briefly last week, must be recorded. The first happened near Cardon, an unlucky locality, on the Great Northern line. While the express train from London was approaching the station, the fire of one of the wheels of the tender broke, and the engine, which was running at express speed, was instantly shaken off the line, and plunged down an embankment ten or twelve feet high, carrying with it the whole of the train and lying over into a field by the side of the line. The passenger carriages were turned over, and the most frightful confusion prevailed among the unfortunate travellers, some of whom fell through the windows, but the majority were unable to extricate themselves until assistance was rendered. The engine-men and fireman were both hurt about the legs and arms, but not very seriously. The guard escaped with a few bruises. All the passengers were found to have sustained some degree of injury, and two were very seriously hurt, one gentleman having had several of his ribs fractured, and another passenger some severe internal injuries.

A frightful crash occurred on the South-Eastern Railway on Wednesday week, producing a scene of great horror, though no one was killed on the instant. The express excursion-train from London to Ramsgate was on its way; it had nearly gained Chatham station, where it did not stop, was going at a great speed, and was rounding a very sharp curve, almost a semicircle, when suddenly the passengers were roused to a sense of impending danger by a dull grating sound, as if the carriages dragging heavily, followed almost instantaneously by a violent rocking and overthrow of the carriages on to the left side. The result was most disastrous. The carriages were violently snapped asunder from the engine and tender, and ran off the rails, plunging up the line in all directions, and continually coming into such violent collision with each other that three of them were smashed to pieces, the broken fragments bearing down and covering the unfortunate inmates. Shrieks of the most heartrending description were heard on all sides. The engine was brought up just beyond the station, and both driver and stoker were found to be unharmed; the first guard, Cummings, was also unhurt; but the second one, White, was less fortunate; he was violently thrown from the break-van, coming in contact with a quikset hedge, which seriously lacerated his face. The unfortunate passengers suffered fearfully—a very large number were hurt more or less, and many sustained frightful hurts; others, however, had escapes truly wonderful. The breaking carriages having ploughed up the soil, some of the passengers were found half-buried in the earth. The sufferers were taken from the wreck as quickly as possible, conveyed to the station, and placed on cushions. Neighbouring surgeons were soon on the spot; some of the wounded remained at Chatham, others were conveyed to Canterbury hospital, and a number of those less seriously hurt resumed their journey or returned home. A Mr. Cannon, and a boy named Wood, have since died of their injuries.

The cause of the calamity is doubtful. The crank axle of the engine had come off; this might have been the cause of the accident. But, on the other hand, it might have resulted from the engine breaking away from the train, that arising again from too high a speed in passing over the sharp curve. The permanent way and rails were ruined for a considerable distance.

THE EXPENSE OF DOING NOTHING.—The expenditure of the Board of Works, from January 1, 1856, to July 31, 1857, was as follows:—Sewerage, £112,593; contingencies, £7,199; establishment charges, £35,659; thus showing that the establishment charges are about thirty per cent. of the expenditure. But it appears by a note that out of the £112,593 expended for sewerage works, £30,404 was paid in respect of works contracted for and partly executed by the late Metropolitan Commission of Sewers. Supposing that one-half of the works charged in this sum had been executed since the 1st of January, 1856, when the Board commenced its duties, it will appear that the expenditure on works and contingencies has been £37,391, while the establishment charges have amounted to £35,659, or more than fifty per cent. of the amount expended on works.

RESULTS OF THE SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT FOR 1857.—Summing up the general results of the action of the department during 1857, it has been shown that the various metropolitan museums and exhibitions in London, Dublin, and Edinburgh have been visited by 553,853 persons, being an increase of as many as 186,915 persons in 1856. The visitors to the Botanical and Zoological Gardens in Dublin have been 168,098, showing an increase of 10,222 persons on 1856. The circulating Art Museum has been sent to Stonborough, Worcester, Liverpool, Glasgow, Paisley, and Dundee, and 36,021 persons have consulted it. The various Schools of Science and courses of public scientific lectures have been attended by 19,372 students. The total number of students connected with the Schools of Art, or under inspection, has been 45,212, being an increase of twenty-five per cent. on the numbers returned in June, 1856; while the cost of the State assistance, from being an average of £3 2s. 4d. per student in 1851, before the reform of the Schools of Design, has been reduced to an average of 18s. 14d. per student, the instruction at the same time having greatly improved, and the means for study largely increased. The number of students in the Art Training School at Marlborough House during the session ending February, 1856, was 292. The number in the month of last March at South Kensington was 497. The visitors to the Museum in less than ten months have amounted to 439,597 persons, being nearly five times the average numbers annually that attended Marlborough House.

PROPERTY AND POPULATION.—In the year ending the 5th of April, 1857, the annual value of property in the counties of the United Kingdom, including railways and canals, rated under schedule A of the Income-tax Act, was £78,328,541; and the amount payable under the said schedule, £5,221,705. In the cities and boroughs of the United Kingdom, the amount of property was £19,624,153; and the amount of tax payable, £3,308,221. Thus, together, the property in the United Kingdom rated under schedule A would be £127,952,694, the population 27,511,933, the number of Parliamentary electors 1,221,316, the number of members of Parliament 654, and the amount of income-tax payable under schedule A £5,229,929.

LANDING-PLACE OF THE ALLIED FLEETS AT CANTON.

As soon as the Allies became masters of Canton, it was found necessary to establish certain police regulations for the better order of river navigation. Amongst other measures, that of reserving a special landing-place for the officers of the allied fleets proves very satisfactory. Prior to this, excursionists for the shore, or *rice versa*, had to contend against an army of Tanka women, who, from the way in which they assailed the unlucky Europeans, seemed intent on avenging the loss of their city by making reprisals on its captors. Under the new system, the assaults of these jolly young waterwomen are avoided, a given number of them only being permitted to assemble at a time, and all inconvenient crowding is thus done away with.

MARRIAGE OF THE SULTAN'S DAUGHTERS.

ALL Constantinople has been astir because of the marriage of the Princess Munyr Sultane and Princess Djemile Sultane, daughters of the Sultan. The first of these young ladies was bestowed upon Mahmoud Pacha, a Prince of Egypt; the other on Hami Pacha, son of a late Master-General of the Ordnance.

The rejoicings on this august occasion were most brilliant and costly. A correspondent, writing from the spot, says:—"In the immediate neighbourhood of the city, on a parched open table-land of considerable extent, known as Feri-koï, or the ancient Archery Ground, which (as the sketch I enclose will show) commands the Bosphorus, the city, the open ground in the interior, with the white peaks of Mount Olympus, and Scutari in the distance, a vast encampment has been formed—so vast that the whole population of the city seem to have taken it into their heads to live for a time under canvas. One portion of this encampment is set apart strictly for the tents of the Sultan, the Bridgegrooms-elect, the Grand Vizier, the high Ministers of State, the Diplomatic Corps, and innumerable wealthy Pachas. Around this chosen ground runs a deep ditch, crossed here and there by narrow wooden bridges, protected by chevaux-de-frise and sentinels; and thus it is secured from contact with the multitude beyond.

"During the day, horse-ship, rope dancing, and other theatrical amusements are enacted; but it is at sunset that the grand festivities commence.

"Beyond and around the select portion of the encampment the whole scene is then lighted up with untold torches and lamps, while every now and then showers of rockets, darting into the air, are responded to from rafts anchored all along the centre of the Bosphorus. Moreover, from sunrise till midnight salutes echo from the shore of Asia to that of Europe. Within the line of aristocratic tents, the scene is gorgeous and most curious in effect.

"Between the ditch and the tents of the grantees is a broad parade, from which the *élite* are permitted to examine the luxurious interiors of the tents. The Sultan, Grand Vizier, Ministers of State, high dignitary Pachas, and their invited friends arrive about sunset; and then the mos

the European population are admitted within the ditch to mix in one commingled crowd of class and costume, with those who quit their tents when satisfied with the good things they have enjoyed: leaving only a few fat pachas, who smoke their jewelled clubbiques, and, with eyes half-closed with repletion, seem pleased at the admiration of the lookers-on. These latter appear bewildered at beholding so many real live pachas doing what other men do—taking their ease.

But not a single Turkish woman is permitted within the barrier, though hundreds, nay thousands, sit in gilded carriages, and carriages of every description, their faces covered with the yamach— which is becoming thinner and thinner—darkly gazing on the tents, the lamp, and the passers-by, till they all but dream: while thousands, nay tens of thousands, of the more humble class of women, sitting crossed-legged, line the ditch.

Hundreds of sheep are daily converted into pilau, and thousands of piastres given away in largesse; and thus this *fete*, which commenced on Thursday last (the 27th of May), and will not terminate until the 4th or 5th (of June), will enrich many a rogue, while it adds to the already heavy liabilities of the Light of the World some half a million of pounds sterling, and impoverish the poor.

On Tuesday, the 1st instant, the Sultan entertained the chiefs of missions and first *attaches* at a grand dinner at his palace of Dolma Baghje; also the ministers of state, various other functionaries, and several distinguished strangers. On the arrival of the company, his Sublime Majesty entered the saloon and conversed with several persons present, but took no part in the feasting—he dined alone. This dinner, which was served with all the splendour of the table of a European sovereign.

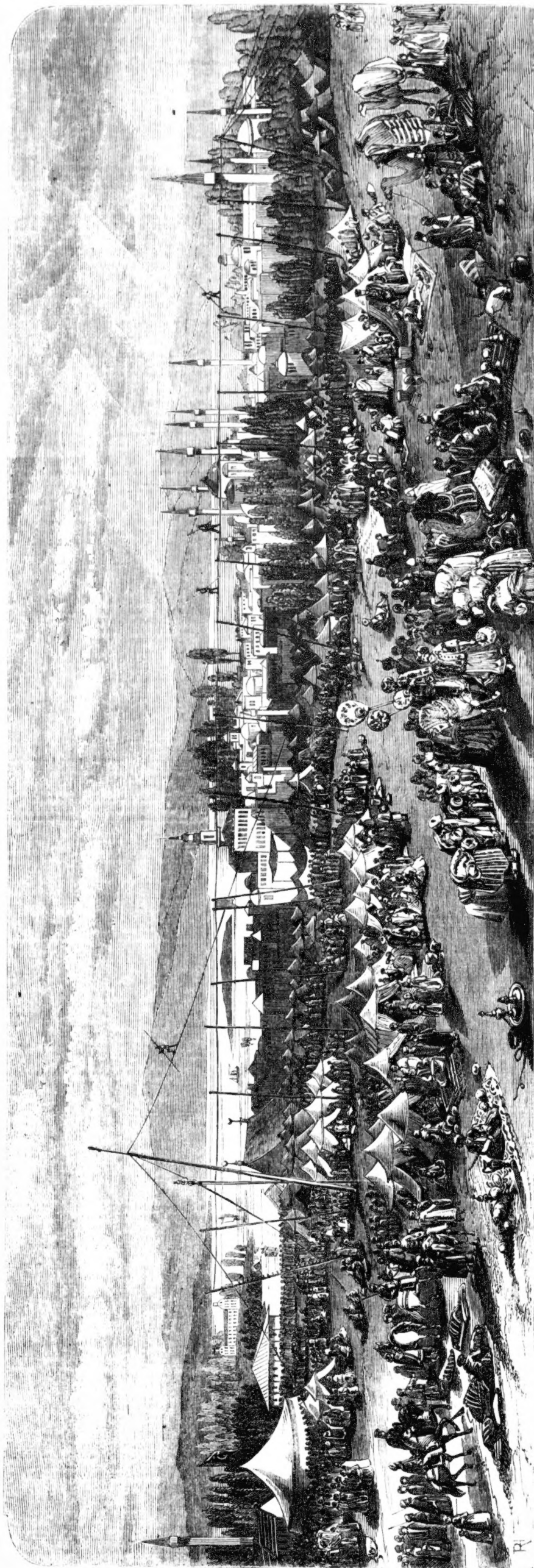


LANDING-PLACE OF THE ALLIES, CANTON RIVER.

brilliant scene commences. Thousands of lamps of every size, form, and colour, light up the tents without; while, within, they are for the most part lit with elegant lamps and chandeliers. Flowers of the sweetest, orange trees in pots, damask and satin covered sofas and chairs—all open to the public gaze. In the tent of the Sultan, the Bridgerooms-elect the Grand Vizier and the Pacha, dinner tables are laid out in the European style—bearing the finest and whitest of table-clothes and napkins, oysters filled with the choicest flowers, rich plate, with the oriental cypher, cut glass, Dresden and Sevres china. The richest dishes that the culinary art of Europe or the East can invent are discussed; while iced champagne flows like water. Thus, while, during the day, feasting of a ruler kind is carried on by the assembled multitude, who eat with their fingers, when night arrives it is renewed in the severest European fashion by the higher classes: when Grand Vizier and Pachas, who not long since never handled knife or fork, deign to sport themselves much as if they had been born in Pinico. European ladies are admitted to these dinners, the Sultan only eating alone; and even he shows his sublime person after dinner in a fez amid the *harem monde*, when coffee in jewelled cups, and pipes with jewelled and amber mouth-pieces, are served—the only Eastern habit which remains.

To add to this really extraordinary scene, I may mention that Greek waiters, in ill-fitting European clothing, perhaps hired for the occasion—white neckcloths, white gloves—hand round the dishes, giving, as they pass, a confidential nudge to each guest, and saying, "Do you want any?"

Dinner commenced, the Sultan's band, composed of three-score Asiatic musicians—and good ones they are—plays in the arena before the tents; and the better portion of



FESTES IN CELEBRATION OF THE MARRIAGE OF THE SULTAN'S DAUGHTERS AT COST 172 CIII.

MASONIC DEMONSTRATION IN EDINBURGH.

THE foundation-stone of a new Hall, for the Grand Lodge of Scotland, was laid at Edinburgh, on the 24th ult., the occasion being celebrated with extraordinary ceremony. Invitations to be present were addressed to all the Lodges of Scotland, and also to the Grand Lodges of England, Ireland, France and Belgium. There were, therefore, a large number of delegates; and a more brilliant display of masonic jewellery and paraphernalia is seldom seen. By the Queen's permission, the brethren assembled at the Palace of Holyrood, whence they proceeded to the High Church. At the close of the services there, the procession set out for George Street, where the foundation-stone of the new Hall was laid by the Grand Master, the Duke of Athole, with all masonic ceremonial.

The streets were lined by detachments of lancers, infantry, and artillery; and at the conclusion of the great ceremony of the day, a salute of guns was fired from the new bastions recently erected at Ramsay Gardens.

The procession returned by George Street, Waterloo Place, and Regent Road, to Holyrood, and here it dispersed. The day was not yet over, however: a banquet was necessary to conclude the proceedings—and a banquet was accordingly held in the evening at the Music Hall, the Duke of Athole presiding.

Perhaps the most interesting feature in the recent grand Masonic pageant at Edinburgh, was the appearance of the venerable old banner, dear to all Scotland, and especially to Edinburgh, as the most ancient ensign of the country, under which almost all of the high privileges of the citizens have been won. From time immemorial the Deacon Convener of the Trades has been entrusted with the custody of this venerated flag, and to unfurl it, has been to rally around him the bold craftsmen of the city. At the recent fraternal gathering, however, it made a more peaceful appearance. The privilege of carrying it in the procession was granted to the Lodge of Journeyman Masons of Edinburgh, and when the brethren of that Lodge, with band playing and banners flying, drew up in front of the

Convener's house on the South Bridge, and that functionary unfurled the banner, and after an appropriate address delivered it to the Office Bearers, there was universal enthusiasm.

Tradition says that the "Scots mechanics," who followed

Majesty's retinue having alarmed the Deacons of Craft with what had happened, the trades instantly convened, and unanimously agreed that their ensign should be displayed for convocating the lieges to rescue their captive monarch, which was accord-

the Holy War in 1099, planted their standard on the walls of Jerusalem, and afterwards dedicated it to the "Holly Guist," hung it before the altar of St. Eloi, their patron, in St. Giles's Church of Edinburgh, and the craftsmen of the city mortified large sums of money for the decoration of that altar and the preservation of their flag, which, from its colour, came to be called the "Blue Blanket." James III., being confined in Edinburgh Castle, William Bertram, provost, displayed the Blue Blanket to the Corporation of Trades, who thereupon stormed the said Castle, and delivered the King, for which deed was granted them a patent of many high privileges, which they called their Golden Charter. The craftsmen, in commemoration, renewed their banner, and the Queen, with her own hands, painted on it a St. Andrew's cross, a thistle, a crown, and a hammer, with the following inscription:—

"Fear God, and honour the King, with a long lyffe and prosperous reigne; and we shall ever pray to be faithfull for the defence of his sacred Majesty's Royal persone till death."

The Blue Blanket next appears under the following circumstances in the reign of James V., as Pennicuik tells:—"The Crown being debtor to the town of Edinburgh in vast sums, for which she had not only the security of the Government, but the personal obligation of the Monarch, wearied with disappointments, and the merchants murmuring from want of payment from the town, to whom they had given considerable loans, for behoof of the public, the magistrates and merchants, in concert, raised a mob, and gave directions to the ring-leaders what and how far to act, to insult the King as he was passing the street to the Parliament House; and who, after a scuffle with his guards, violently seized upon his sacred Majesty, and thrust him within the walls of the common jail. Some of his



THE FAMOUS "BLUE BLANKET" HANDED TO THE JOURNEMEN MASON.



PROCESSION OF FREEMASONS LEAVING HOLYROOD HOUSE, EDINBURGH

ingly done, and so procure him to be liberated and safely conveyed to his royal palace of Holyrood House."

The Blue Blanket also made a gallant appearance at Flodden Field, and during the reign of Queen Mary it appeared several times chivalrously in her defence, particularly when she was brought a prisoner from Carberry Hill, and lodged in a common house of the town, the crafts rose, gallantly unfurled their blanket, and compelled her enemies to restore her to her palace of Holyrood. In the following reign, the crafts still maintained their sturdy banner, for James VI. writes in his "Basilikon Doron," p. 164, "The craftsmen think we should be content with their work, how bad so ever it be; and if in anything they be controuled, up goes the Blue Blanket."

Such an interesting relic certainly deserves the veneration shown for it to this day by the citizens of Edinburgh.

The site of the new Hall is in the centre of the new town. The building occupies the area extending from behind the frontage in George Street to Rose Street Lane. This space admits of an apartment upwards of 75 feet long and 37 feet wide, with a height of ceiling of fully 36 feet. The front elevation is plain in character, but it is contemplated, we believe, so soon as the finances warrant the alteration, to replace the face of the structure by a design which will not only give an imposing character to the building, but prove an ornament to the street. Towards George Street, the elevation contains on the first floor two shop spaces, between which is the entrance corridor and vestibule leading to the Hall. Pediments and Ionic columns form the principal "breaks" to the outline of this storey. In the succeeding floor are placed the Grand Lodge Committee-Room—some 36 feet long by 20 feet wide—the Library, and the Grand Secretary's and Grand Clerk's Rooms. On the second floor, above the shops, is a Lodge-Room of dimensions similar to the Committee-Room, with suitable adjoining rooms.

Internally, the Hall is designed after the Ionic model. The ceiling is an elliptical arch, supported by a range of Ionic pilasters, with a rich entablature. Over each pilaster, on the frieze, there are to be masonic devices, elaborately brought out, with a scroll ornamented frieze between each—the other members of the cornice being also effectively ornamented. Light is admitted to the Hall by three large windows placed at the south extremity, and also by numerous panelled compartments, filled with plate-glass, in the ceiling. At the north end of the Hall, there is to be an orchestra. The symbols of freemasonry afford much scope to the taste and skill of the limner, and advantage will be taken of this to embellish the wall spaces with illustrations of the figures and emblems so familiar to "the brethren."

The plans were prepared by Mr. David Bryce, Grand Architect, and will be realised under the superintendence of Mr. D. Bryce, Jun. The building will cost £4,500, and the site £5,000.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. NO. 20. WHAT TO DO, AND HOW TO DO IT.

We have been talking a great deal during the past week about cleansing the Thames; and as we do not understand the subject which we have had before us, we have, as is usual in such cases, talked a good deal of nonsense. Now, the best way in all discussions upon difficult problems is, as it appears to us, to look out for some simple axiomatic truth as a basis of these operations; and on this question, we think that the disputants would do well to remember a truth of this sort which was uttered in Parliament three sessions ago by Lord Palmerston. "Dirt," said the Noble Lord, "is only matter in the wrong place." True, most true, my Lord; and in discussing the question of cleansing the Thames, it would be well if honourable members would remember that the "dirt" in our noble river is only "matter in the wrong place." And then, the next thing for them to consider is—first, Which is the right place? and second, How to get it there? Now, to our minds, the river neither here nor there, neither opposite the Houses of Parliament, nor at Barking Creek, is the right place. Neither do we think that the sea is the right place. And for this reason: Nature teaches all who have eyes to see or ears to hear, that she has made nothing in vain—literally nothing; but has a use for everything, and that she can and will use everything if we will only give her the chance. For example, the stable refuse, the soot, the tailors' clippings, &c., of London, are carried down by train-loads to the hot sandy land in the neighbourhood of the Biggleswade Station, and there spread upon the soil; and immediately Nature takes this refuse, and by her own curious and inscrutable chemistry, turns it in process of time into cucumbers, onions, cabbages, &c., which come up to London to feed its immense population. And she would do the same with all the refuse of this vast metropolis if we would give her the opportunity. In fact, the refuse—that which we refuse and are so anxious to be rid of—is her raw material wherewith she works for our advantage, and to throw it into the sea, where it can do nothing but poison the fishes and pollute the air, seems to us to be a very impolitic and shameful waste. We send to Peru and elsewhere annually for hundreds of thousands of tons of guano at an enormous cost; and when it arrives here, buyers are found for it in plenty at ten guineas a ton, and yet we coolly propose to throw about 500 tons of guano per diem into the sea—surely a barbarous proposition and quite unworthy of the scientific age in which we live. The river, then, and the sea, O, conscript fathers! with all due deference to your wisdom, are clearly the wrong places for this refuse. But which is the right place? We answer, unquestionably, the land. The land wants the manure, and here is the manure for the land. And what should hinder these two from being joined together? They have an indisputable affinity to each other, and that union would be certainly fruitful. But then comes the question, How to do it? This is a difficult problem, no doubt, but surely in this age not insoluble. When every house had its cesspool, there was not much difficulty. It is only the magnitude of the quantity of refuse which is to be distributed that constitutes the difficulty. Now, all you engineers, of whom your country is so proud—you who have levelled mountains and elevated valleys, bored through the everlasting hills, and thrown astonishing bridges over arms of the sea—solve us this problem. You have surely done greater wonders than this. The last bulletin of the state of the Thames, opposite the House of Commons, is somewhat more favourable. The thermometer has been lower, and a wind has been blowing, but every now and then we get a whiff just to nudge our authorities, and to remind them that though the stench is not quite so bad, the evil is still unremedied. Poor Lord John Manners is well nigh distracted. When he is in the House he rushes about like a Bedlamite, and makes Goldsworthy Gurney, who is neither so slim nor so young as the Noble Lord, but who is obliged to accompany him, pant and blow like a grampus. Sometimes the Noble Commissioner may be seen flying across the lobby. Anon he dives down into the vaults beneath—then he goes to experiment with his nose upon the odorous vapour in the library, or to superintend the filterings and deodorisation going on on the terrace. And then in addition to all this, every morning's post brings the Noble Lord piles of letters from amateur engineers and chemists, each suggesting a plan for carrying out the great work: all of which, of course, he has to read and consider; besides conferring with deputations, and stirring up Mr. Fabius Thwaites and his metropolitan parliament.

LORD STANLEY.

During the last week or two, Lord Stanley has been the real leader of the House, for the business of the House has been the discussion of the India Bill, and of course Lord Stanley, as President of the Board of Control, has taken the lead in this discussion. It had long been a settled point in the House of Commons, that Lord Stanley must soon take some high office. It did not seem possible that a nobleman of such high birth and connections, and unquestionable talents, should remain much longer out of power. But though this was settled, it illustrates the curious state of parties in the House; these men had by no means made up their minds as to which section of the House the Noble Lord would join. He sat on the Conservative side, below the gangway; but every speech that he delivered seemed to prove that he was more of a philosophic Radical than a Conservative. Some of his speeches

were denounced by Spooner and Bentinck, *ex id omne genus*, as positively shocking for their latitudinarian spirit; and we confess, that if Lord Stanley had eschewed office altogether for the present, and placed himself at the head of the Radicals, we should not have been surprised. Lord Palmerston, it is clear, did not consider that the Noble Lord was irrevocably pledged to the Conservative party, for in 1855, on the death of Sir William Molesworth, he invited Lord Stanley to succeed Sir William as Secretary for the Colonies. But, however, here he is sitting, at least not as the leader of the Radicals, nor as Secretary for the Colonies with the Whigs, but as President of the Board of Control in a Conservative Ministry. Nevertheless, though he has joined the Conservative Government, and sits on the Ministerial bench, we venture to say that Lord Stanley is not a Conservative. Neither is he a Whig; certainly not. Nor do we think that we can designate him as a Radical. Indeed, we doubt whether he holds to any well-defined political formula. He is, in our opinion, a calm, philosophical statesman, and will not be found, in the long run, giving to party what is meant for mankind. Under the old political *regime*, when every member of a ministry was obliged on all questions to follow the leader, we doubt whether Lord Stanley could have joined any ministry, and certainly not a Conservative Government. But the old political *regime* has passed away; the despotism of the Prime Minister is nothing like what it used to be; strict party questions have become much fewer in number; much greater latitude of action is allowed; and "open questions" are every day becoming more common. Hence it is that men of many different opinions on important political subjects, find it possible to serve in the same Cabinet. Lord Stanley is a young man to take so high an office as President of the Board of Control. He is thirty-two years old this year. In person he is rather tall; and he is very different in appearance to the bearded and moustached seions of noble houses who lounge about the lobby. He wears no hair on his face, dresses neatly, and affects no finery. His associates seem to be few in number, for he is seldom seen in company with any one, but marches through the lobby alone, unnoticed by any one, and noticing no one as he passes—evidently, a silent, retiring man. The Noble Lord has a good forehead, prominent and lofty, and a remarkably serious and thoughtful face. The speeches of Lord Stanley are always good and always listened to; and he frequently throws out thoughts which are worth remembering; but his delivery is ineffective, and always must be so, owing to some fault in his voice, the cause of which we have never been able to discover. Some say that he has a defective roof of the mouth, others say that he is what is popularly called short-tongued; but we do not think so. The defect is simply a thickness of utterance, but whether this arises from some faulty construction of the speaking organs, or from a bad habit early contracted, we are not able to say. Lord Stanley was educated at Rugby and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was, in 1848, a first-class man in classics, and took mathematical honours; and the Noble Lord has further educated himself by extensive reading, and also by foreign travel, not merely over the beaten track of Europe, but in the United States, in Canada, and in the East and West Indies. In 1848, he unsuccessfully contested Lancaster; and in the same year that he was in America he was returned for King's Lynn, as the successor of Lord George Bentinck. The only works from his pen are, we believe, three pamphlets: "Claims and Resources of the West Indies," "Further Facts Connected with the West Indies," and "The Church-rate Considered." Such is Lord Stanley, the heir of the house of Derby, already President of the Board of Control, and not unlikely destined to be the Premier of England.

PROFESSOR BLACKIE.

In the Lobby of the House of Commons one morning, when the Scotch University Bill was on, there appeared a stranger, who not only received considerable attention from the Scotch members, but attracted a good deal of observation generally. He was rather a short man, with a sharp, lively, restless face, closely shaven, long white hair which almost reached his shoulders, and a merry twinkling eye, which age has not yet dimmed. His dress was not singular, excepting his broad-brimmed hat. In his hand he carried a formidable cane with a heavy ivory hook. This gentleman was Professor Blackie, Professor of Greek, we believe, in the Edinburgh University, who was elected some time ago by the Town Council, by a majority of one, to succeed Professor Bannard, just then deceased. Professor Blackie had, of course, come up to town to watch this new bill, which is intended to shake up the seats of learning in the North from the lethargy into which they have fallen, and reform them altogether. But the Professor had not come, like some of his brethren, in fear of the measure, but rather in hope that it may open up a new era for Scottish education; for Mr. Blackie is an ardent reformer, and by his lectures and writings has loudly proclaimed the fact that the Scotch Universities have dropped behind the age, and warmly preached the necessity of reform. Professor Blackie is one of the few Scotch professors whose fame has come across the Border, and we were pleased to see one of whom we have so often heard, and whose lectures, and speeches, and articles we have read with delight.

SIGNS OF THE END.

Everything is uncertain in the House of Commons. Here we may truly say that "we know not what a day may bring forth." We go down to the House, and expect a long night, and suddenly the business is at end, and instead of sitting on until two o'clock in the morning, we are at home at eight; or we confidently calculate, from the look of the orders of the day, that we shall run through the business rapidly and rise early, and instead of this, we drag on painfully far into the night. All prophecies, therefore, of the day when we shall be progressed, are uncertain. All we can say is, that there are symptoms of, and preparations for, a speedy close of the session. The India Bill is through committee; before the week is over, it will probably be read a third time, and despatched to the Lords. Two more nights, it is calculated, will give us the remainder of the miscellaneous votes in supply, and then there will be nothing in our House to keep us here. The Appropriation Bill will be brought in, and the Mutiny Bill, and rapidly passed; and then, in ten days, if the Lords do their work quickly, as they are wont to do at the end of the session, we shall see the Black Rod march up to the table to summon us to the Lords to hear our dismissal. It is true there are still upon the paper some forty bills of all sorts; but these will not stop us a day. If the promoters can pass them, they may; if not, they must drop. Already the slaughter has begun. Every night the well-known motion is put, "That the order be discharged;" and formidable as the paper looks, as the end approaches, it will be ruthlessly cleared of all bills, excepting a very select few. These forty bills have cost a world of time, and thought, and money too; for they are all printed, and on the average cost for printing some £20 each. But no matter; cost whatever they may have cost of time, and labour, and cash, their fate is sealed. The Thames stinks, the House will soon be on the wing, and we cannot stop here merely to indulge amateur legislators. We think we may venture to say that the Government is safe for the session. We can see no cloud ahead, nor even a patch as big as a man's hand, likely to expand into a storm. Nor do we apprehend danger during the recess. With common prudence, they may certainly live to another meeting of Parliament. Absolutely, they are not a strong Government, but comparatively they are; for they have literally no opposition. Nor is there the smallest sign of the conversion of the Liberals into a party again. There does not seem to be even a wish amongst them to band together. What was considered some months back as certainly only an abnormal provisional state of affairs, seems now to be acquiesced in as normal and permanent. But, as we said before, we cannot tell what a day may bring forth. All speculation is futile. The early part of the next session will be an anxious time for the Government; for if they can hang on until the end of April, we understand that Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Walpole, Sir John Pakington, and Mr. Henley, will get their pensions for life. The Lord Chancellor has a pension, even though he hold the office but for a day; but the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Principal Secretaries of State must serve twenty-four months. The twenty-four months, however, as we are informed, need not be in succession.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JULY 2.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE CHURCH-RATES ABOLITION BILL.

The Duke of Somerset moved the second reading of the Church-rates Abolition Bill. The principle of the measure was the simple abolition of church-rates, without providing any substitute for them; and he believed this was the best course to take in the first instance. The House was not pledged to any course of policy on the subject, and could therefore take an enlarged view of it. With the Government, he understood it was an open question.

Lord St. Leonards opposed the bill on the legal ground that church-rates were a charge upon property; Dissenters had bought property subject to that drawback, and he could not see what religion had to do with the matter.

Lord Warrington supported the bill, as really calculated to promote the interests of the Church. As to the rate being a charge upon property, it was a charge every parish had the power of imposing or refusing.

The Duke of Manchester opposed the bill, and defended church-rates, as equitable, since all Dissenters retained certain rights with regard to the Church and its ministers, which they were able at law to enforce.

The Duke of Newcastle would not have voted against the second reading if the bill had come before them two or three months ago, when there would have been time to find some substitute for the rate; but it was now too late to suppose such a bill could become law in the present session.

After a few remarks from Lord Wensleydale,

The Earl of Derby thought the Duke of Somerset had displayed much courage in undertaking what he trusted would be the hopeless task of seeking to induce the House to deprive the Church of England, without equivalent or compensation, of what was essential to her maintenance and one of her most indisputable rights. In point of principle he could see no distinction between the charges of tithe and church-rate, except, perhaps, that the amount of the tithe was fixed, while that of the rate was variable, and that tithes could be recovered by legal process, while in enforcing the payment of church-rates there was considerable difficulty. He contended that the rate was a charge upon property itself, the payment of which could not be evaded on the plea of conscience. He regarded with great suspicion all conscientious scruples the result of yielding to which was a saving of money. He admitted the question was not in a satisfactory position, that many Dissenters who opposed the rate were not animated by hostility to the Church; but a large proportion of those who were carrying on the present agitation did it from a political and selfish spirit, and were actuated by the most deadly hostility to the Church. The only real remedy appeared to him to be that there should be a fund raised, in the first instance by voluntary action, equivalent to the average amount of church-rates; such a plan would demand their most serious consideration; but it was wholly at variance with the object of the present Bill. He could not pledge the Government to introduce any measure on the subject, but he would gladly hail any desire on the part of Dissenters to meet the Church half way on the question. He moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months.

The Archbishop of Canterbury objected to the voluntary system, that it would place the ministers of the Church in an unworthy position with the people; they would be dependent on them for the repair of the Church and the expenses of the service. But he admitted church-rates could not remain as they were, and he would cheerfully assent to any compromise that was not wholly concession.

Earl Granville believed the longer the settlement of the question was deferred, the more difficult it would prove. The agitation was well organised. More confidence might be placed in the voluntary system than Lord Derby had expressed; it could be relied upon to repair churches as well as to build them. He feared the commutation plan the head of the Government had sketched would be attended by no practical result.

The Bishop of London, from experience, doubted the efficiency of the voluntary system as a permanent source of revenue. The Bill would merely transfer £300,000 per annum to the bankers' accounts of the landed proprietors of the country.

Earl Grey strongly condemned the Bill as a measure of injustice and robbery against the labouring poor of the land. They were entitled to have their churches maintained, and sweeping away that legal obligation was an undiscussed spoliation of the poor by the rich.

Lord Campbell thought abolition without an equivalent was impolitic and unjust.

Lord Portman supported the Bill merely because some pressure was required to produce a settlement.

After a few observations from the Bishop of Oxford and the Duke of Marlborough,

The House divided; the numbers were—Content, 36; not content, 187; majority against the second reading, 151.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House of Commons, at the morning sitting, resumed in committee the consideration of the clauses of the Government of India (No. 3) Bill, commencing with the 13th clause, which fixed the salaries of the members of Council at £1,200 a year.

Mr. COLLINS moved to reduce the amount to £500.

The amendment, after nearly two hours' discussion, was negatived by 221 to 57.

On the motion of Mr. MORFATT, the words "out of the revenues of India," were added to the clause.

The 14th Clause, providing retiring pensions for members of the Council, it was proposed by Mr. RICH to amend, by fixing the period of service at fifteen years, instead of ten; but the amendment was negatived without a division.

An amendment proposed by Mr. BLACKBURN was adopted by Lord Stanley, and agreed to, omitting the latter part of the clause, assigning an increased pension to a member of the Council retiring after fifteen years' service.

On the motion of Lord STANLEY a proviso was added to the clause, depriving a member of the Council who had served less than ten years of any claim to pension or compensation in case of the reduction by Parliament of the number of the members.

The committee having divided upon the clause as amended, it was carried by 190 to 101.

On the 27th clause, which enacts that orders now sent through the Secret Committee to India may be sent by the Secretary of State without communication to the Council,

Sir G. LEWIS expressed a hope that this power would not be exercised except when secrecy was peculiarly important, and it was unsafe to take the opinion of the Council; and

Mr. MANGLER urged that there should be no secret communications at all. Lord PALMERSTON thought it essential in practice and upon principle that the clause should remain as it was.

Lord J. RUSSELL, on the contrary, thought that the clause was inconsistent with the rest of the bill, and that the advice of the Council would be valuable in those matters of policy which had hitherto been held to be secret. He recommended that this clause and the succeeding, relative to secret despatches from India, be struck out.

Upon a division, the clause was carried by 119 to 95.

A discussion of some length arose upon the 38th clause, charging the dividend on the Company's stock and existing and future debts, liabilities, and expenses upon the revenues of India alone, as regarded the security of the public creditor; and Mr. WILLOUGHBY moved to omit the word "alone," but this amendment was negatived.

The remaining clauses, with amendments proposed by the Government, were agreed to.

METROPOLITAN DRAINAGE.

Mr. H. BELKELEY inquired whether the Chief Commissioner of Works had received any communication from the Metropolitan Board of Works respecting the main drainage of the metropolis; and if so, whether the outfall of sewage be proposed to take place on the north side at Barking Creek, nearly opposite to the Arsenal at Woolwich, or where?

Mr. GLADSTONE appealed to the Government to give an early day for ascertaining the opinion of the House upon this subject.

The question gave rise to a discussion which diverged from the subject. At the conclusion,

Lord J. MANSFIELD, admitting that the Metropolitan Board of Works had submitted to him, the day before, a plan for remedying the evil, observed that the Government were most anxious to lay before Parliament a measure that would satisfactorily settle this question, but that premature discussions would only increase their difficulties.

OUR RELATIONS WITH FRANCE.

Mr. WHITE inquired whether perfect identity existed between the Government of her Majesty and the Court of France with regard to the future government of the Danubian Principalities, as announced in the declaration of the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the 4th of May.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer replied that the Conference was still sitting, and that its first resolution was that the strictest secrecy should be observed as to its proceedings, and it could not be expected that her Majesty's Government should set an example of violating this injunction of secrecy.

MONDAY, JULY 5.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

MEDALS FOR SERVICE IN INDIA.

Lord DERBY said, in answer to a question from the Duke of Newcastle, that medals for service in India would be distributed as soon as lists of those entitled to receive them could be made out. Clasp would be given for the capture of Delhi, the defence of Lucknow, and the relief of that place. His Lordship also added that Sir Colin Campbell had not been gazetted to the peerage which was to be bestowed upon him, because he had not yet selected a title.

THE OATHS BILL.

On the order of the day for going into committee on the Oaths Bill (Lord Lyndhurst's). The Earl of CLANCARTY asked whether the Sovereign would be called on to give her royal assent to a measure which might be opposed to her conscientious opinions. He also drew attention to the fact that no security had been taken to prevent a Jew from using the legislative power given him to the injury of the Established Church.

The Duke of MARLBOROUGH thought some security against the abuse of the power conferred ought to be taken. The Jews should not be placed, in this respect, in a better position than the Roman Catholics.

The Earl of DERBY had no reason to suppose that, if both Houses of Parliament had passed the bill, Her Majesty would interpose her prerogative to prevent its becoming law. He admitted that some amendments would be required in the bill as it stood.

After a few remarks from Lord CAMPBELL,

Lord LYNDHURST said the present bill was very ill drawn; the person who drew it did not appear even to have read the Abjuration Oath, as the words proposed to be omitted were not in the form of the oath at all. The necessary verbiage ought to be struck out, and the recital of the words of the Oath of Abjuration made to correspond with the oath itself. He should postpone his own bill sine die.

The House then went into committee pro forma, and the amendments were introduced and ordered to be printed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE INDIA BILL.

The House of Commons resolved itself into a committee on the Government of India Bill. The following clauses were agreed to, after some discussion:—The new 33rd clause (proposed by the Government), enacting that regulations should be made for admitting persons desirous of becoming candidates for cadetships in the Engineers and Artillery to be examined. The new 34th clause, which provides that not less than one-tenth of the number of persons to be recommended in any year for military cadetships shall be selected from among the sons of persons who have served in India in the military or civil service of Her Majesty or of the East India Company. The new 35th clause, enacting that all persons to be recommended for military cadetships shall be nominated by the Secretary of State and members of Council, so that out of seventeen nominations the Secretary of State should have two and each member of Council one, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State in Council.

Mr. FAGAN moved a clause empowering the Council to refer certain outstanding claims of British subjects upon the revenues of Oude for advances made to the then Sovereign of Oude, previous to the A. & S. 37th George III., cap. 140, to the auditor of the accounts of the Council for investigation.

Lord STANLEY allowed that there were claims upon the former government of Oude, and that the transfer of the revenues of Oude to Great Britain carried with it a liability for all debts justly and fairly contracted, and he admitted that it was expedient that such claims should be investigated. The clause, however, had no intimate connection with the Home administration of India, and therefore it would not be convenient to insert the clause in this Bill.

The clause was negatived; and the bill was then ordered to be reported.

THE SCOTCH UNIVERSITIES' BILL.

On the order for considering the Universities' (Scotland) Bill as amended, two clauses were added to the bill, on the motion of Mr. GLADSTONE, empowering the universities named in the bill, if Her Majesty should grant a charter for the foundation of a National University for Scotland, to surrender to the Commissioners the power of granting degrees, and to become colleges of such National University.

A clause, moved by Mr. DUNLOP, providing that the offices of principal in the Universities of Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Edinburgh, shall not be deemed "chairs of theology," though opposed by the Lord-Advocate, was carried upon a division by 82 to 58, and added to the bill.

Another clause, proposed by Mr. DUNLOP, enacting that no distinction should be recognised among the professors of the Universities of Glasgow, not objected to by the Lord-Advocate, was agreed to.

Other amendments were made in the bill, including the addition of the name of Mr. Alexander Murray Dunlop (the Member for Greenock) to the list of commissioners named in the bill.

A proviso to clause 19, moved by Mr. BAXTER, restraining the commissioners from applying any portion of the moneys for the salaries of principals or professors required to subscribe a religious test, and not included in the provisions of the Act of the 16th and 17th of Victoria, c. 39, was negatived by 118 to 102.

SALE OF IRISH LANDS.

The House then went into committee upon the remaining clauses of the Sale and Transfer of Land (Ireland) Bill, which were agreed to, and the bill was ordered to be reported.

TUESDAY, JULY 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE OATHS BILL.

The Duke of MARLBOROUGH gave notice that in committee on the Oaths Bill he should move the insertion of a clause prohibiting persons of the Jewish religion from advising the Crown on ecclesiastical appointments.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS.

On the motion for receiving the report of amendments to the Ecclesiastical Commission Bill,

Lord RAVENSWORTH moved an amendment, limiting the power of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to make appointments as an exchange of ecclesiastical patronage without the written consent of the bishops of the dioceses in which such livings are situated.

The Earl of DERBY objected to giving the bishops an absolute veto on these appointments; and the amendment, on a division, was negatived, the numbers being—contents, 12; non-contents, 38.

The report, after a short discussion, was received.

THE REGINA CADI.

On the motion for the third reading of the Chinese Passengers' Act Amendment Bill, Lord BROUGHAM repeated his opinion that the negroes found on board the Regina Cadi were really slaves.

The Earl of DERBY stated that Lord Malmesbury had arrived at a totally different conclusion.

The bill was then read a third time, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

INDIA.

On the order for the consideration of the Government of India (No. 3) Bill, as amended,

Mr. GLADSTONE moved a clause enacting that, except for repelling actual invasion, or under sudden or urgent necessity, Her Majesty's forces in India shall not be employed in any military operation beyond the external frontier of Her Indian possessions without the consent of Parliament to the purposes thereof. He strongly urged the policy of this restraint upon principle and with reference to facts and examples, dwelling especially upon the Afghan and Persian wars.

Lord STANLEY assented to the motion. The reason why such a provision was not inserted in the original draught of the bill was, he said, that, as a practical check upon the Minister, it would have no binding force; but he agreed with Mr. Gladstone that it was a matter of importance to place formally upon record the intention and will of Parliament upon the subject.

The object and the wording of the clause were strongly objected to by Lord Palmerston, but, with a verbal alteration, the clause was carried upon a division by 152 to 46.

Lord PALMERSTON moved the insertion of a clause limiting the continuance of the act, so far as related to the nomination, election, numbers, duration of service, salaries, and retired allowances of the councillors, to five years. His object, he said, was to give Parliament an opportunity, or rather to impose upon it the necessity, of reviewing and reconsidering the arrangements regarding the council after a limited time.

Lord STANLEY opposed the clause. He urged the inconvenience of being obliged to introduce a Continuance Bill for India, and that the clause was unnecessary, since practically the door was always open for a reconsideration of the subject.

A long discussion ensued, in which it was contended on one side that the clause would, at the end of five years, transfer the entire authority to the Secretary of State; and on the other side, that it merely ensured a reconsideration of the questions of the number and remuneration of the Councillors.

Upon a division, the clause was negatived by 149 to 115.

Mr. SEYMOUR moved a clause repealing certain sections of the Act 33 George III., c. 52, in order to throw open to other qualified persons offices hitherto exclusively filled by members of the Civil Service. There were many offices in India, he observed, now confined to covenanted civil ser-

vants, which might with greater advantage and more propriety be filled by members of the uncovenanted service.

Lord STANLEY observed that the proposition opened a very large subject—the relations of the covenanted and uncovenanted servants. The clause would sweep away, in a summary manner, all the privileges, which had been long enjoyed, of the covenanted civil service. The whole subject must engage the attention of the Government; in the meantime, he thought the House should not commit itself by expressing any opinion upon it.

Mr. SEYMOUR withdrew his motion.

Sir E. PEERY moved to amend the 10th clause by the addition of words prohibiting the Councillors from accepting, holding, or carrying on any other office or situation, or any profession or employment, from which any gain or profit shall be derived.

Lord STANLEY observed that there could be no misunderstanding as to the views of the Government of what was required of the members of the Council, and he thought it unnecessary to place such a limitation upon their private occupations.

The clause was negatived.

Lord J. RUSSELL moved the omission of the 17th and 25th clauses, preserving and transferring to the Secretary of State the power, now possessed by the Secret Committee, of sending and receiving secret despatches to and from India without the privity of the Council. He thought this was an unwieldy power, and that it could not find a place in the bill.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said the question was whether there might not be cases in which it would be the duty of the Minister and for the interest of the country that he should act upon his own responsibility. The principal feature of the bill was to establish the responsibility of the Minister, and if the House did it shown that, in a particular position of affairs, when his responsibility was taxed to the utmost, he must go to his Council, it would in a certain degree diminish that responsibility.

Upon a division the numbers were, for retaining the clauses, 116; for omitting them, 119; majority for their retention, 27.

On the motion of Lord STANLEY, a proviso was added to the 28th clause, saving any security to which the East India Company, or any proprietor or creditor thereof, may be entitled under the Security Fund.

The bill was then ordered to be read a third time on Thursday.

The Universities' (Scotland) Bill was read a third time, and passed.

The Wills, &c., of British Subjects Abroad Bill, the Copyright of Designs Bill, and the Stipendiary Magistrates, &c., Bill, were read a third time, and passed.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

NEW TRIALS IN CRIMINAL CASES.

Mr. M'MAHON moved the second reading of this bill, providing for new trials in cases where it was supposed a mistake on the part of a judge or jury had led to a wrong conviction. He proposed that the appeal should be to the Court of Queen's Bench.

Mr. WALLACE said he would not oppose the second reading, but he thought the bill would require very material alterations in details.

Mr. ROBERTS supported the bill; which was opposed by Mr. JANE, Mr. Spooner, and other members, on the ground that it gave a rich criminal the benefit of appeal, while the poor man would be deprived of it by want of means.

Mr. Bright and Sir J. Trollope having spoken in favour of the measure, the House divided, when the second reading was voted by 145 to 91.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL hoped that the bill would not be further proceeded with this session. The principle was good, but in details the measure was faulty.

After some further discussion, the bill was ordered to be committed that day three weeks, on the motion of Mr. M'Mahon himself.

Some other unimportant business was transacted, and the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, JULY 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE JEW BILL.

The Jew Bill was recommitted, and a clause added, on the motion of the Duke of MARLBOROUGH, prohibiting Jews who might be appointed to an official position from interfering in the distribution of ecclesiastical patronage, or in advising the Crown with respect to any ecclesiastical appointments in consequence of that official position.

Other bills were advanced a stage, and their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. MOWBRAY, in answer to Mr. Hatfield, said the total amount of compensation claimed by preceptors and others under the Probate Acts (England and Ireland), 1837, was about £176,000.

General PERL, in answer to Mr. Hussey Vivian, stated that the new gun foundry at Woolwich, for casting iron ordnance, had not proved a failure; on the contrary, it was likely to prove highly successful.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

On the question that the Government of India (No. 3) Bill be read a third time,

Lord PALMERSTON stated that, although he entertained all his objections to that portion of the bill which related to the Council, still it contained so much that was good that he would give it not a grudging, but a cordial support.

Mr. ROEBUCK adduced numerous faults in the measure, and had little hesitation in foretelling that this rickety piece of legislation would at no distant period require great revision.

Lord J. RUSSELL did not like to see the measure pass its last stage with so unsparing a valediction as that pronounced by Mr. Roebuck. His Lordship pointed out the "other side"—its redeeming points, the existence of which reconciled him to the measure becoming law.

The bill was read a third time and passed amidst general cheering.

NEW CALEDONIA.

Sir BULWER LYTTON moved the second reading of the Government of New Caledonia Bill, the object of which is to introduce settled government into a part of the British possessions to the westward of the Rocky Mountains, to which the attention of settlers is now much directed in consequence of the reported discovery of gold.

Mr. LABOUCHERE expressed his approval of the measure, which was read a second time.

IRISH POLICE.

Lord NAAS moved the second reading of the Police Force (Ireland) Bill, the object of which he described to be the amalgamation of the police force of Dublin, Belfast, and other towns in Ireland with the Irish constabulary. The effect of the measure would be to place a larger force at the disposal of the magistracy than at present, and to reduce the existing expenditure.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN opposed the bill, which he believed was introduced for Orange purposes.

After some discussion, the second reading was, on a division, carried by a majority of 125 against 66.

On the motion that the bill be committed, the discussion was renewed, and ultimately adjourned on the motion of Mr. Maguire.

THE REV. ALFRED POOLE, whose name has recently been before the public in connection with the alleged scandals in Belgravia, has lodged an appeal with the Archbishop against the decree of suspension pronounced against him by the Bishop of London.

IN THE WAR COMMITTEE OF THE CHAMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIUM, it was decided on Wednesday by a majority of six votes to one, that the system proposed by the Government for the national defence of Antwerp could not be agreed to.

THE RUSSIAN FRIGATE POLKAN, on entering the Adriatic, joined the French ships there, and placed itself under the orders of Admiral Jurien La Gravière. This news is reported to have produced a tremendous sensation at Vienna.

THE CRIMEAN GRAVEYARDS.—Sir James Ferguson, who, with a brother officer, has just returned from the Crimea, gives the satisfactory intelligence that the graves and monuments of the Allies are without exception carefully respected and preserved, not only near Sebastopol, but even on the battle-field of the Alma. At the latter place, Madame Bellavodsky, the proprietress of the ground, not only preserves but tends and repairs every grave.

THE "NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY."—The first report of the trustees of the new "National Portrait Gallery" is published. The rule judiciously laid down by the trustees in reference to the making of purchases and the reception of presents is to look to the celebrity of the person painted rather than the merit of the artist. "Great faults and errors" will not be held sufficient ground for excluding any portrait historically valuable; and, of course, historical celebrity will be estimated without any religious or political bias. Personal vanity will be disappointed by a wise rule to admit no portrait of any person still living, or deceased less than ten years, except in the case of the reigning Sovereign, and his or her consort. No portrait will be admitted by donation unless three-fourths of the trustees, at the least, shall approve it. The portraits now in charge of the trustees amount on the whole to thirty-five, and have been ranged on the walls in temporary rooms situate in Great George Street, Westminster. Up to this time the collection has not seemed sufficiently advanced for public exhibition; but this is the grand final aim of the trustees, and no time will be lost in carrying it out.

THE TYROLESE CARRIER.

Who would be a carrier, even as the man in our engraving from Mr. Carl Haag's picture is a carrier? As to being a carrier with a cart, and fourpence for a very small parcel, four shillings for by no means a very large one—to receive that, of course, is a different question; and to be a carrier on a pleasant road—from London to Richmond, for instance—would, in the present fine weather, be by no means a despicable occupation. But to bend one's back and break one's back carrying other men's goods for the scantiest pay, is about as miserable a profession as can well be conceived, and therefore every one who is not a porter—a carrier who carries, as distinguished from the carrier who makes his horses carry. But what, then, must be the position of a carrier in the Tyrol, in a country where to walk—that is to say, to carry your own bones and your own flesh along with you—is by no means an easy matter, and when the lightest false step may precipitate pack, carrier and all, into an abyss which, he will find to his cost, is not bottomless. But, does the mountain goat shudder, does the Pyrenean mule hesitate even on the edge of the precipice? No; and by long habit and stern familiarity with danger (familiarity, you know, breeds contempt), the men of the Tyrol become as agile as sure-footed, as the goats themselves, to say nothing of self-possession, in which they are naturally the animals' superiors.

To wonder about the Tyrol for pleasure is of course exceedingly pleasant; but the Tyrolese carrier can scarcely have an eye for the fields waving with corn, and the rich pastures dotted with wild flowers of every description, nor the mountains with their varied shapes, nor the ravines, nor the deep and dark precipices, nor the complexion of the ever-changing atmosphere. Provided he can fill his pipe, that is all he thinks about, or perhaps, rather, that is all he thinks he thinks about; for, take him from his mountains, and he will pine for them, and sicken with nostalgia, that terrible and incurable disease, which used to commit such havoc among the Breton and Swiss troops of Napoleon's army, that he was compelled to break up the system of recruiting entire regiments from particular provinces, and to draft the Swiss and the Bretons into corps where they were sure not to meet many of their compatriots and co-provincials to sympathise with them and remind them at every instant of their lost homes. The Tyrolese carrier, according to Mr. Haag, is not only picturesque, but comfortably clad—a double fact which must be alike gratifying to the painter and to his model. But that heavy load (for it must be heavy unless it consists entirely of feathers—a most improbable hypothesis) tells of his great fatigue, and that long, sharp-pointed stick tells of his danger, and, all things considered, we would rather even be a journalist than a Tyrolese carrier.

THE MUSIC LESSON.

WHAT have become of the music lessons, and, above all, of the music parties which the old masters, and specially Valentin, loved to paint? *Mais on n'est les ardeurs d'autant.* They have gone where last year's snow has gone. The piano has driven them away. The piano is an article of furniture, whereas the violin and the rest of the stringed family are only musical instruments—admirable, unapproachable for expression, it is true; but quite incapable of being used as substitutes for clifforians and sideboards. Moreover, the performers in a quartet must be good musicians, whereas the piano soloist is completely master of his own time, and is independent of all sorts of restrictions by which the exponents of concerted pieces are fettered. That the piano has also certain positive and musical advantages on its side (enabling the player to give, as it were, a faint copy of the picture which the quartet can produce in the fullest colours) it is impossible to deny; and a partisan of the instrument which we are deprecating would bring forward as arguments in its favour the number of brilliant musicians who have made it their special study, and the number of composers of genius who have written for it—the Bachs, the Beethovens, the Mendelssohns, and the Sterndale Bennetts, to say nothing of the Liszts and the Thalbergs.

However, we have only to consider at present the capabilities of the instrument in the way of picturesqueness, and certainly a couple of performers playing a *quatre mains*, or Messrs. Benedict, Rubinstein, and Alois Schmidt, hammering away at their triple Erard, are far less agreeable sights than the four bearded quaintly dressed gentlemen who are seen grouped round a music-desk, with violins, alti, and violoncelli in their grasp. We can remember one music-lesson, however, which forms rather a good tableau, and in which the instrument is no other than our friend the piano (by-the-bye it was originally the harpsichord); we mean the music-lesson in the immortal "Barber of Seville." But it is a dramatic, not a pictorial tableau, so that, after all, we find ourselves returning to our original argument, and our original conclusion—that the piano is not a picturesque instrument.

M. Plassan, in his charming "Music-lesson" at present on view at the French Exhibition in Pall Mall, goes back to the good old times, when young ladies played the violin. And why, with their delicate touch and their exquisite sensibility, should they not play this instrument, which at present is given over nearly altogether to the hands of man? People say that the violin is an awkward instrument to play, and that a man looks awkward in playing it. So he very often does, but that is no reason why a woman should do so. Let those who are of that way of thinking hold down their heads, for they must have forgotten Teresa Melanollo, with her beauty, her grace, and her admirable talent.

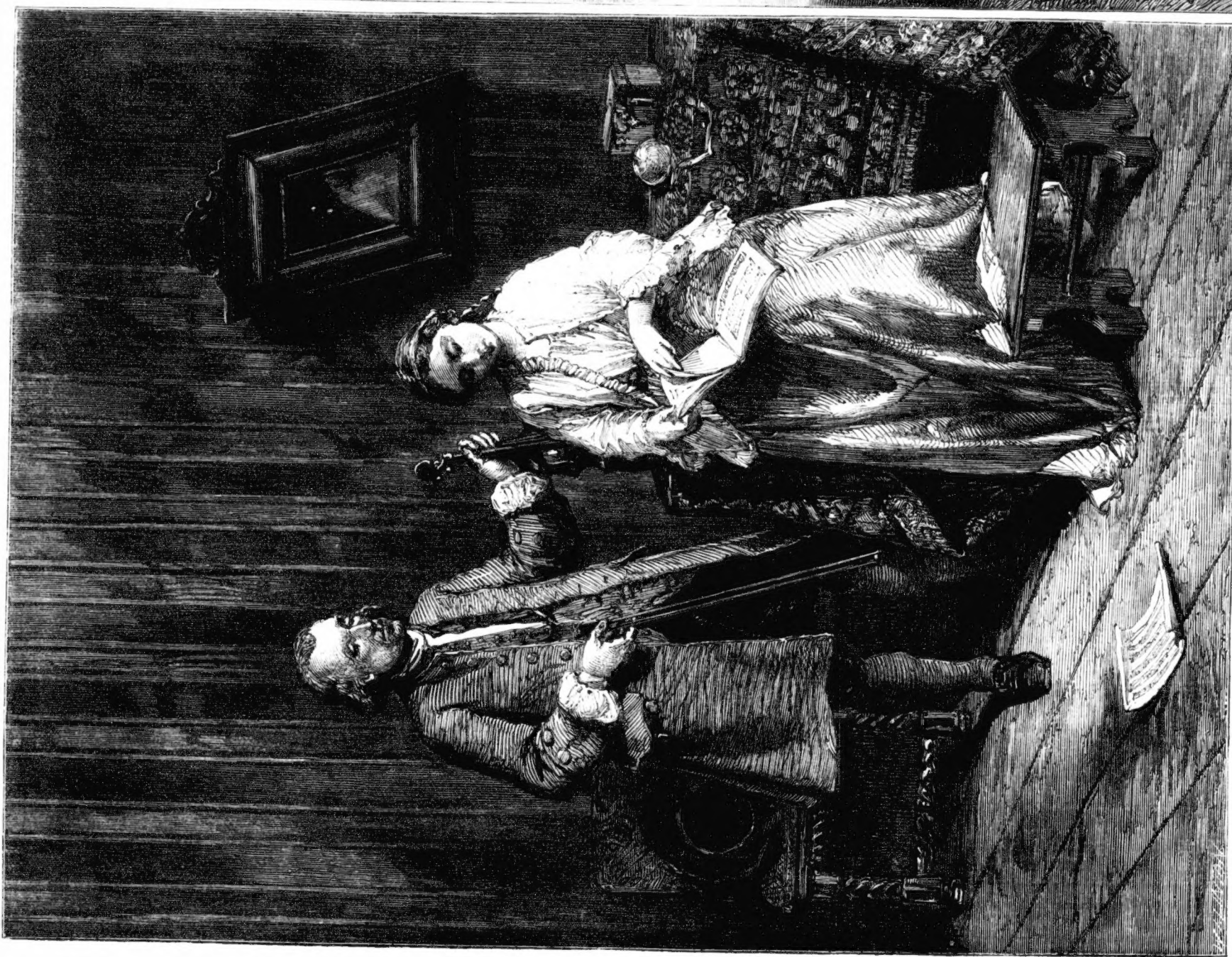
Besides, in the sixteenth century, the very saints played the violin. At the Louvre there is a picture, by Domenichino, which represents St. Cecilia performing, not on the violin, but, worse still, on the violoncello. It is true that an angel (with a face exactly like Buckstone) is holding the music; but there is the fact established that the divine patroness of music played the violin; and if the divine St. Cecilia, why not the pretty little girl who is shown to us in M. Plassan's picture?

The master has just tuned the instrument for his interesting pupil, and she will take it as soon as she has found in her music-book the piece he desires her to execute. What is the music she is looking at at present? In vain we try to decipher it. M. Plassan is not a pre-Raphaelite, otherwise he would have painted the notes so clearly and distinctly that we should have been able to read them as from a score. But, on the other hand, he would have painted an absurd picture, deficient in that very reality at which pre-Raphaelites aim, for the details they love to represent with such microscopic accuracy are not distinguishable in nature.

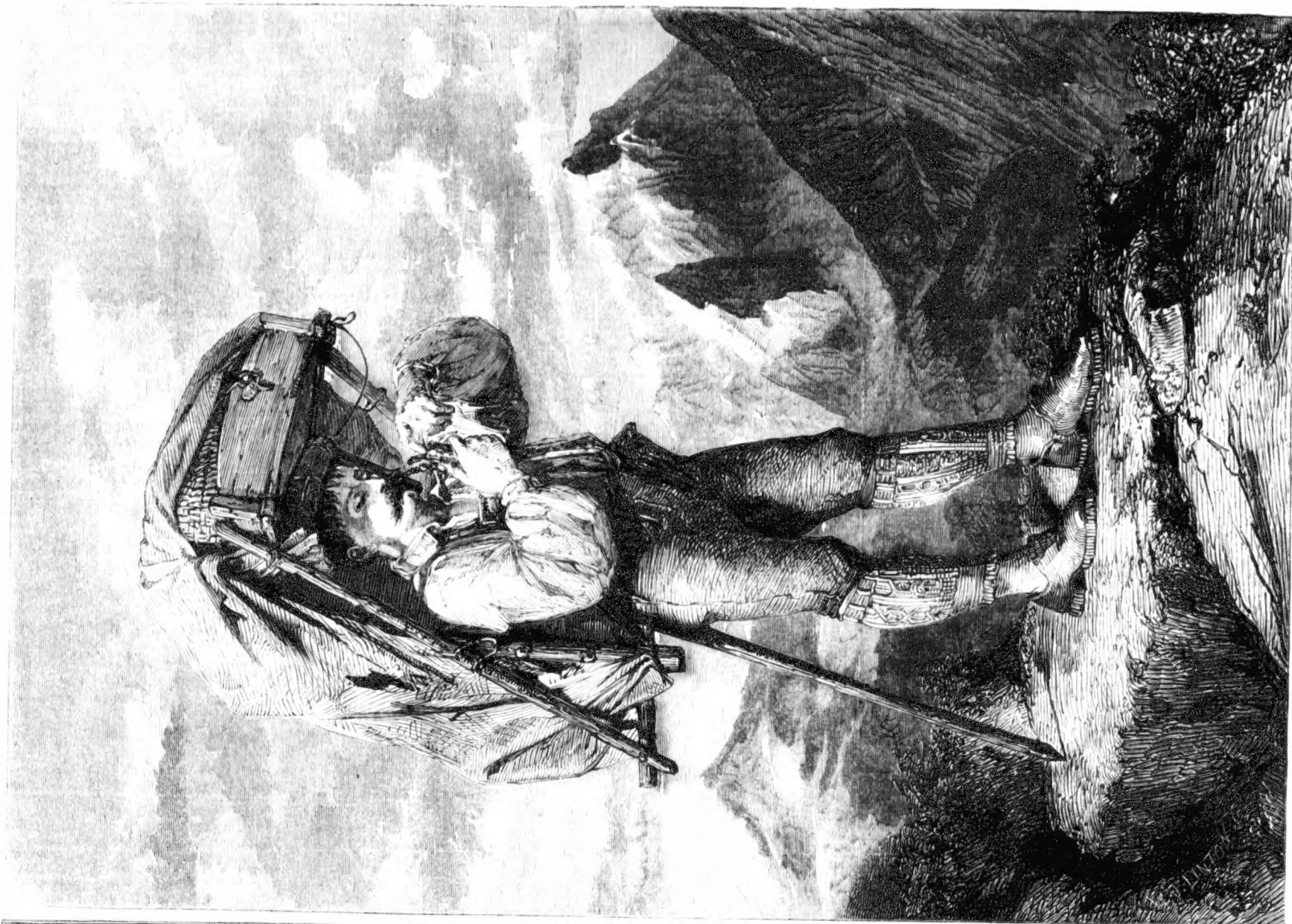
FILTRATION OF THE THAMES SEWAGE.—Experiments were tried a few days since on the terrace of the House of Commons with reference to a scheme for filtration of the sewage of the Thames, by means of a filter composed of a number of pure charcoal balls, for the manufacture of which Mr. Carl Buhning has taken out a patent. The sewage is permitted to run into barges placed at the mouth of each sewer, the filter is introduced, and the aqueous portions of the sewage are then drawn through the filter by means of a pump, thus leaving the solid portions of the sewage in the barges, to be carried to any places up or down the river, and pouring the liquid in a perfectly pure state into the river, free from smell or taste. The experiments, which were highly successful, were made in the first instance before Sir Joseph Paxton, and afterwards repeated in the presence of a great number of members, and all expressed their admiration of the invention, and their belief that the scheme could be carried out. Lord John Manners expressed his intention to facilitate the experiment which the company proposes to make on one of the sewers, by all the means in his power.

THE WESTMINSTER QUARTER BELLS.—Big Ben, the new hour bell for the New Palace of Westminster, having come out a little flat of F, the four quarter bells which were cast some four months since by Messrs. Warner and Sons, have been tuned to accord with it: since when they have been inspected and approved by Mr. Denison and Mr. Taylor, and they will shortly be placed in the Clock Tower. The weight and note of the bells are—first quarter, 21wt. 4lb. of A.; second quarter, 26wt. 14lb. of G.; third quarter, 35wt. 1qr. 6lb. flat of F.; fourth quarter, 77wt. 3qrs. 24lb. flat of C.

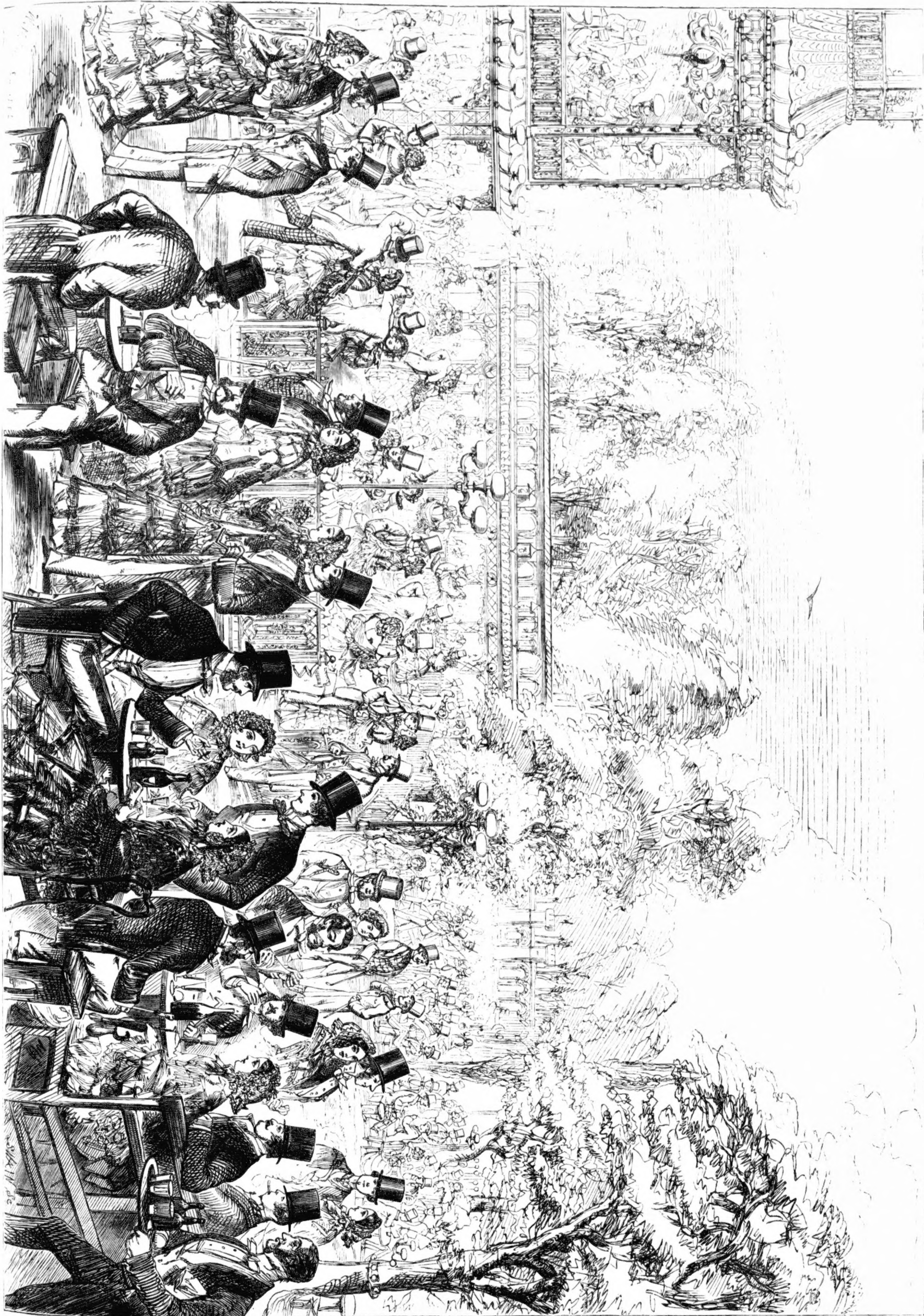
ACCORDING TO THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN, four persons died in London from sunstroke between the 15th of June and the 3rd of July of the present year.



THE MUSIC LESSON.—(FROM A PAINTING BY FLASMAN, IN THE FRENCH EXHIBITION.)



THE TYROLESE CARRIER.—(FROM A PICTURE BY CARL HAAK, IN THE GALLERY OF THE OLD SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.)



CREMONA GARDENS IN THE HEIGHT OF THE SEASON.—(DRAWN BY MCGOWAN.)

CREMORNE.

PASSING into the period of fogginess—that is, being some ten years older than the “rising generation”—it often strikes me that the youth of the present day are more fortunate in many ways than were their immediate forerunners. Money goes farther, for one thing; there are excursion trains and tourists’ tickets, and sixteen shilling trousers, and two guinea palatots, and London dinners, and cheap Crystal Palace days, and amphitheatre stalls, and Sisal cigars, and penny ices, and fifty other aids to pleasant enjoyment at a cheap rate. Dress is easier; who of my coevals does not look back with horror on the tightly-strapped trousers, the hot, clinging Wellington boot, the high, choking stock, the swallow-tailed dress coat, the long, thick, watch-box-like “great coat” with its heavy, ugly cape, and its ridiculous names, “Petersham,” “Taglion,” and such like? A proper acquaintance with Wenham Lake ice, and the many delicious beverages therewith concocted, had not been formed in our day; we were ignorant of Ethiopian serenaders, contortionists, gutta-percha, *dear-temps* waiting, and many other of the now recognised blessings of civilised life. Above all, we had no Cremorne! our “gardens,” our place of summer amusement, was Vauxhall! and where is he—

“So blunt in memory, so old at heart,
At such a distance from his youth in grief,
That, having seen, forgets!”

the misery of that much-overrated, never-prosperous, spirit-damping place. The entrance was—is, I dare say, all these things may be exactly the same this day, and most likely are—the entrance was dull and gloomy. On either side sat check-takers in boxes made of old black tarry boards, like the inverted used-up boats on Brighton beach, and directly in front of you was an illuminated transparency, representing a baldheaded man in a swallow-tailed coat, in the attitude supposed by department professors to constitute a bow; that is to say, with his right leg gracefully pointed in front, with his chest so much thrown forward that he appeared to have had his back scooped away, and with his right hand flourishing a very curved-brimmed hat above his head. At the top of this device were the words “Welcome to the Royal Property,” words which were reported to have been constantly in the mouth of Mr. Simpson—the baldheaded man—who had once been a “master of the ceremonies” of the place. The only charm of Vauxhall was the first burst of light when you had passed Mr. Simpson, and then the long covered-in arcade brilliantly lit with variegated lamps had a very dazzling effect, but when you found that there was no other amusement provided than walking up and down these dull arcades, beyond the fireworks, you soon saw that half-an-hour’s promenade put you in possession of all the resources of the establishment, and that after that your stay in the Gardens in search of pleasurable excitement was a mockery, a delusion, and a snare. Such was the only summer recreation provided for us youth about town some dozen years ago, when Cremorne Gardens suddenly were opened to the public. There was a Lord Cremorne who possessed the common aristocratic failing of wanting money, I believe, and so sold his suburban place; no one ever heard much of him or his family, so far as I know (and that I confess is little enough about noble families), but henceforth his name will be illustrious in the annals of England, ranking with the bold Baron de Nathan, of Rosher-ville, and that illustrious Count Tivoli who first started the Gardens at Margate. However, be these things as they may, Cremorne Gardens were opened to the public and have remained open ever since, year by year improving until they are second to none that I have ever seen in several of the capitals of the Continent. Their great charm is that they are *gardens*! there are flowers, and turf, and large old trees, and you can wander about over a tolerably large expanse of ground without constantly meeting the same people, and receiving the same dull ghastly stare from them—that eminently British stare, which is the height of impertinence. Of amusement, there is plenty—an all-fresco concert, the performance of a *ballet*, tumbling of acrobats, marionettes, a very tolerable circus (where there is one of the best and most daring tight-rope dancers in the world, the very picture of M. Blandois in “Little Dorrit”), all sorts of American bowls and table-billiards, archery and rifle shooting, a hermit, and perpetual dancing, to the music of a very good band, on the circular platform. It is from this point that our artist has taken his sketch, and here is the best place for observing the character of the various visitors.

It is about half-past ten o’clock, and still the middle-class visitors have not yet beat a retreat, the “swells” are just beginning to arrive; club coffee-rooms, notably the “Rag” and the “Junior,” have discharged their whilome occupants into Hansom cabs and private broughams, which have wended their way Chelsea-ward, while the said occupants, in all the “gorgeous array” of evening dress, covered by the large loose-sleeved cape, in all the aristocracy of moustache, beard, and wig-whisker—in all the easy elegance of toothpick-chewing, hand-in-pocket-holding, and semi-intelligible drawing—are wending their sauntering way round the dancing-platform at Cremorne. These young bucks are sources of the greatest delight—of delight mixed with respectful wonder—to the families who have been at the gardens since two p.m., who are now finishing their sandwiches and bottled porter in the supper-boxes, and just waiting while father has gone round to see the horse put to that convenient green chaise-cart, which will take them all to St. Mary Axe. Jolly, stout, red-faced matron, cherry-cheeked, plump, buxom girls, shining with yellow soap and good-humour, though somewhat “towed” by a romp in the maze; children preternaturally excited by the lights, and the dancing, and the “drops of drink” which have been continually administered—wild with sleep, but refusing to believe in the existence of bed—propping their eyelids with their forefingers, and enduring martyrdom. Rowing men are there, who have pulled up from Westminster, in all their aquatic glories of striped shirts, flannel trousers, and round straw hats; little gents, in bold caricatures of the fashion; a great many gentlemen—neither swells nor gents—quietly enjoying themselves; and heavy, brown-faced countrymen in curiously-cut garments and fluffy hats, stamping heavily about, and imagining they are “seeing life!”

What is it that Lord Ingestre and his friends want to see?—At the time I write the great event has not come off—Is it trimly-laid gardens, illumination lamps, fireworks, a ballet, a band, American bowls? All these can be seen at other places; the gardens are nothing without the usual company, and they are to be rigidly excluded. They must not come between the wind and Friday night’s nobility, and most probably a row will be the consequence. Public feeling seems somewhat absurdly aroused in the matter; for if Mr. Simpson chooses to *kotco* to the nobility, and offend his long-tried and generous patrons, that surely is a question between Mr. Simpson’s pride and Mr. Simpson’s pocket.

THE LOUNGER.

A FRENCH COMPLIMENT TO ENGLISHWOMEN.—M. Texier, the editor of “Le Siècle,” in describing the English beauties to be seen in Hyde Park, expresses his admiration of “the blooming faces of the fair-haired maidens, those Norman flowers engrafted upon a Saxon stem. One would say that in their veins flows a blood more blue, and to see them so white and rosy, one would believe them born of a kiss of the wave, and of their own pale sun!”

BISHOP AND CLERGY.—The Bishop of London gave an entertainment on Saturday to a large body of his clergy at Fulham Palace. The invitations were numerous, and the acceptances equally so. There was a free *entrée* to the palace and gardens, and ices, fruits, wine, tea, coffee, and other refreshments were dispensed during the afternoon. Formal ceremony there was none, and the Bishop and his family assured their guests of a welcome by a most hospitable entertainment. The Bishop will hold the primary visitation of his diocese in the course of the approaching autumn. The proceedings, which are expected to extend over three days, will take place in St. Paul’s Cathedral.

THE GRANDISON AND HERRIES PEERAGES.—The Lords pronounced judgment, on Saturday last, in the long-pending case of the Grandison peerage. It is decided that Sir Henry Bedingfield (of Norfolk) has made out his claim to the title. The peerage of Grandison has long been dormant, and it remains for the Crown to call it out of abeyance. It is one of the oldest peerages in England, dating as far back as the reign of Edward III.—The claim of Mr. W. Constable Maxwell to the Herries peerage has been admitted by the Committee for Privileges in the House of Lords.

With the ILLUSTRATED TIMES of Saturday next, will be issued

A GRAND MAP OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

most carefully engraved from the recent Ordnance Surveys, and including all the Railways throughout the Kingdom. The size will be 40 inches by 35 inches. This Map will be sold at the price of a number of the “Illustrated Times,” the charge for the Map and the Newspaper being 5d. The Newspaper will be sold separately from the Map, but in no case will the Map be sold without the Paper.

During the month of August, a highly finished Engraving, on a large scale, of the celebrated Picture, by Sir Edwin Landseer, R.A., in the collection of the Earl of Elinore, entitled

THE RETURN FROM HAWKING.

will be issued in connection with the ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

THE WELCOME GUEST.

A New Illustrated Weekly Magazine for family reading, by the writers and artists of the “Illustrated Times,” amusing in tone, varied in character, rich in illustration, elegant in appearance, and economical in price. Nos. 1 to 11, price One Penny each, are now ready, and may be obtained of all the Agents of the “Illustrated Times.”

No. 12 will be published on Monday next for the following Saturday. Parts 1, and 11, of the “Welcome Guest,” containing Five and Four Weekly Numbers respectively, embracing numerous Tales, Sketches, and Articles of an amusing character, including “Twice Round the Clock, or the Hours of the Day and Night in London,” by George Augustus Sala; and illustrated with very numerous Engravings, are now ready, price 6d. and 5d. each. The Monthly Parts and Weekly Numbers of the “Welcome Guest” may be obtained of all Agents of the “Illustrated Times.”

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* Several of the Engravings in the “Illustrated Times,” connected with Her Majesty’s visit to Warwickshire, such as the General Views of Aston Hall, and Stoneleigh Abbey, the two large Views of Warwick Castle, were copied from a series of first-rate Photographs, published by Cooke and Son, of Warwick.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1858.

SPIRITUAL DESTITUTION.

A COMMITTEE of the Lords has issued a Report on this subject, and many of our readers will like to know a few of the leading facts which a brief analysis of it affords. This is one of the regular subjects of social complaint, which takes its turn, with other grievances, for an airing every now and then, but the difficulties of which, in spite of all sorts of suggestions, seem insurmountable.

The most striking features of the spiritual destitution of the kingdom are the result of the growth of population, and other natural causes, and exhibit themselves with the greatest force in London. Then, in London, there is not church accommodation for 30 per cent. of the inhabitants: a curious fact, when one considers it in all its bearings. But then, the distribution of this accommodation is as unsatisfactory as its amount. For, we all know that there are churches just where congregations are a-wanting: and none, or less than sufficient, where populations are double. The old ecclesiastical organisation was made when the whole aspect of life was different, and no new one has been created to meet its changes. Such is the state of things in London—Middlesex being the worst provided county in these respects in England—but it exists with more or less force in all the great towns of the country.

While downright want of churches is so prominent a feature of the time, the conditions under which existing ones do their work are very bad. Thus, the rector of St. Clement Danes has 17,000 souls to look after, and two curates to help him in the work. Indeed, if churches are wanted, clergymen are wanted still more; and this, in fact, the Report describes as “the great want.” The burial acts have much reduced the incomes of many clergy; and the reader is assured—for there is nothing like figures—that three millions would be required to endow decently the thousand additional clergymen rendered necessary by the state of the country!

When the Report comes to deal with the question, how the means are to be raised for such objects, it is evident that the main reliance of the framers of it is upon the spontaneous bounty of the public. They urge that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners should have powers granted to them to apply particular revenues from certain places to the places themselves. They urge on the employers of labour in Lancashire, Yorkshire, and such counties, the duty of providing spiritual aid to their labourers. They wish to see the poorer clergy more promptly and easily put in possession of their legal dues. But it is evident that what they really put most faith in, is the voluntary inclination of well-to-do people to serve the cause. A paragraph from the Report on this subject will at once make their view clear, and afford us a point of criticism.

“Without voluntary aid to the full extent of the sum mentioned above, the object of meeting the necessities of the country cannot be ascertained. Such voluntary aid the committee do not despair of seeing obtained, if the matter be fairly and plainly represented to the people. Large as the sum is, it is really small when compared with the riches of this great empire. More than double the sum is already voluntarily paid every year for even the tax on the one article of tobacco. A far greater amount is the tax on the annual consumption of spirituous liquors. Again, if we look at the amount upon which income-tax is levied, we find an annual income of £230,000,000, it will appear that a sum equal to 3d. in the pound of the rated income of the country in a single year would suffice. We cannot, indeed, hope that all, or even a large portion, of those who pay the *taxes first mentioned, will voluntarily tax themselves for the building or endowing of churches.* But in a country so rich, there must be far more than enough of persons who would contribute what is necessary, if their liberality and their Christian principles be properly appealed to. This, however, is a matter on which it is not for us to report any special recommendation; it is sufficient that we have indicated our deep sense of the necessity of such a voluntary effort.”

We cannot refrain from expressing our doubts both of the decency and policy of the paragraph which we have put in italics. It is calculated to offend a very large number of harmless people, who may contribute somewhat to the Excise duties without grudging help to the Church. It is just this kind of religious exclusiveness, this assumption that nobody is good but we and our clique, which alienates scores of easy-going liberal-minded folk from the “religious world” altogether, and shuts that world out from a great deal of assistance that it might otherwise be the better for in its projects.

We have great faith in the liberality in money matters which

redeems much in the life of this generation; and are glad to see an opportunity to put their claim upon it before the country. At the same time, we cannot but see great difficulties in the way of relieving our spiritual destitution, and it is as well that the friends of the Church should look them in the face. Many will first endeavour to relieve that *physical* destitution of the poor, which, when it reaches a certain point, shuts out its victims from every sense of the nobler hunger of the soul. Many will insist that the most is not yet made of the existing means of the Church by a better employment of its revenues and its power. And many more observe with regret sums of money lavished upon foreign missions and objects of a fantastic and sentimental charity, a part of which, at all events, might be better employed on that great task—the civilisation of the poor of Britain. Even the spiritual destitution of the country is not its worst feature, though we admit that the mitigation of that evil would have a good effect towards the mitigation of some others.

SAVINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN has accepted an invitation from the Emperor of the French to be present at the Chateau de Compiègne. It is said, too, that her Majesty is to meet the Prince and Princess Frederick-William of Prussia at Cologne, this summer.

THE BODY of a WOMAN was found in Bullingtemple bog, near Newtown-Hamilton lately. An inquest being held, some medical men declared that they could not say whether the body might not have been in the bog for a century past, and the jury found an open verdict.

A WEALTHY VENETIAN, a native of Udine, has left the large sum of 600,000*fr.* (£24,000) in trust to Count Cavour, to be by him applied to public instruction in Piedmont.

THE THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT of KING’S COLLEGE, LONDON, has just sustained a severe loss by the secession of Dr. French, the Dean of Westminster, who tendered his resignation of the chair of Divinity at the close of the late Easter Term.

THE HERRING FISHING on the Ayrshire coast has proved a complete failure this season.

SOME PORTRAITS of the old Counts of Flanders and Kings of Spain were found a few days since, on removing some plaster from the walls of a chapel in the Church of Notre Dame, at Courtrai, in Belgium.

MADAME DOA PFEIFFER is in the hospital of Hamburg, where she is under treatment for chronic ague, caught at Madagascar.

ADMIRAL LORD LYONS has been admitted a Knight Grand Cross of the most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

ALFRED TENNYSON gets his butt of sherry regularly, and drinks it with his friends—not taking it out in cash, as certain laureates were wont to do.

A CIRCULAR has been issued from the Horse Guards placing chaplains of the Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Churches on the same footing, as regards pay and allowances, as those of the Established Church. It also announces the Secretary of State’s intention of appointing five Presbyterian and nineteen Roman Catholic Assistant-Chaplains to the Forces.

MADAME PALÉSKOFF, a distinguished Russian lady, in Berlin, in stepping from the opera-house to her carriage, received a touch on the cheek from the nose of one of the horses. She laughed at what she called “the moist kiss;” but in a few days afterwards died, in dreadful torture, of glanders.

A HANDSOME PUBLIC BAROMETER has been set up in the fishing village of Whitehills, Banff, for the use of the fishermen. Eight barometers of a similar kind, and for a similar purpose, lie at Edinburgh until such time as houses for their reception in northern fishing villages are erected.

THE YOUNG EARL GOWER, eldest son of the Marquis and Marchioness of Stafford, died unexpectedly last week. He was born in 1850.

A MOVEMENT is on foot to retain in this country a copy of Foley’s equestrian statue of Lord Hardinge, now on view in the front of Burlington House, and which is intended for erection near the Government House at Calcutta.

THE RESIGNATION OF THE LORD CHIEF BARON was rumoured a few days since—without foundation, we believe.

A ROGUE’S PORTRAIT GALLERY has been instituted at the head-quarters of police, in New York.

MR. ROSS, a gamekeeper, who accompanied the Prince of Wales in his late excursion through the lakes and mountains of Killybegs as guide, has received from his Royal Highness a small case containing a highly-wrought silver spirit flask and goblet, as a souvenir of the Prince’s visit.

THE CHOLERA has re-appeared at St. Petersburg, and already more than seventy cases have occurred. The temperature of the weather is, however, cooler than is usual there at this period of the year.

AT BURY ST. EDMUND’S, a Mr. George Ridley has been fined 5*s.* for refusing to have his child vaccinated. He had a conscientious objection to vaccination, as tending to introduce disease into the system of healthy children.

MR. RICHARD ANSDALL has returned from Spain, where he has been passing seven months of hard study.

A TESTIMONIAL FROM ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF LONDON, including many bankers and merchants, was presented to their late member, Mr. John Masterton, last week. Their respect is commemorated, not merely in the shape of a piece of plate, but also by the foundation of a scholarship bearing his name in King’s College.

MR. HUMPHREY BROWN, after a very short confinement in the Queen’s Bench Prison, has been released, in consequence of his failing health. Mr. Glover, the unfortunate ex-Member for Beverley, has also been liberated.

LORD STANLEY, before quitting the Colonial Office, authorised a grant of £10,000 towards defraying the cost of a complete account of Australian vegetation.

AN ARTILLERYMAN attempted to commit suicide, in Chester Cemetery, by hanging himself to a tree near his wife’s grave. He was discovered and cut down before life was extinct.

THE PLAGUE is said to have broken out in various parts of the Levant.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS embarked at Dover, for Ostend, on Tuesday.

MR. BUSHNELL, to whom Catherine Hayes was married so recently, is dead.

THE “BRIGHTON PET,” who killed a man in a pugilistic encounter, at Gravesend, a short time ago, has been apprehended.

THE ANNUAL ENTERTAINMENT OF THE TRINITY CORPORATION took place on Saturday evening. The Prince Consort, who wore the dress of the brethren, with the blue riband, presided at the banquet as Master of the Corporation.

THE FARMERS OF BRAWWELL, NEAR STOCKPORT, suffer much loss from the proceedings of some ingenious thieves unknown, who milk their cows in the daytime.

A HOSPITAL FOR ALDERSHOT is projected.

THE NUMBER OF CHURCHES in Great Britain is 14,000, while the number of Dissenting chapels is 20,000.

FIVE DEAD BODIES have been found among the ruins of the fire at Dantzic.

AMONG THE CURIOSITIES OF THE EXCHEQUER, it may be mentioned that, last year, there were paid into its accounts the proceeds of a lottery prize, drawn in the reign of George II., but which had remained unclaimed for 102 years. The original amount of the prize was £499, to which, in the course of a century, there had been added £1,499 8*s.* for interest.

THE RECENT INDISPOSITION OF FEAD PACHA, the Turkish Ambassador at the French Court, is said to have arisen from grief, “on hearing that his only daughter had been compelled to enter the Sultan’s harem.”

MR. SPERGON has declared that he will no longer preach in the Music Hall at the Surrey Gardens. He also stated that if he failed in getting funds for his new tabernacle, it was probable that he would leave this country for America or Australia.

VISCOUNTESS FALKLAND died on Friday week, after a short illness. Her Ladyship was the youngest of the five daughters of the late King William IV. by Mrs. Jordan, and was born Nov. 5, 1803.

THE FRIENDS OF LADY BULWER LYTTON, who has recently been placed in a lunatic asylum near London, are about to endeavour to establish her sanity by an appeal to the legal tribunals.

ANOTHER PIRATICAL BOAT with two lateen sails and seven men on board, is reported to be hovering in the vicinity of the Islands of Fourni, where they chased an Ottoman bombarder about three weeks ago.

A SMALL LANDHOLDER AT ST. SERVANT IN FRANCE has been saved from a fatal termination of an attack of lock-jaw by repeated inhalations of chloroform, in doses not sufficient to produce complete stupor.

THE ART OF TAMING HORSES.

BY J. S. RAREY, THE CELEBRATED HORSE TAMER.
(Continued from No. 170, Page 11.)

HOW TO RIDE THE COIT.

When you want him to start do not touch him on the side with the bit, or do anything to frighten him and make him jump. But start him kindly, and if he does not start pull him a little to the right, and then let him walk off slowly with the reins. Walk him around in the stable a few times until he gets the bit, and you can turn him about in every direction and stop him. It would be well to get on and off a good many times perfectly used to it before you take him out of the stable.

If you have trained him in this way, which should not take you more than two hours, you can ride him anywhere you choose without having him jump or make any effort to throw you.

You first take him out of the stable by a very gentle with him, and let him have a little more liberty to jump or run, and be a little frightened than he was while in the stable. But after handling him in the stable he will be pretty well broken, and you will be able to manage him without trouble or danger.

When you first mount him take a little the shortest hold on the left that it anything frightens him you can prevent him from jumping by pulling his head around to you. This operation of pulling a lead around against his side will prevent any horse from jumping, rearing up, or running away. If he is stubborn and will not let you make him move by pulling his head around to one side, pulling would have no effect. And turning him around will make him dizzy, and then by letting him have his head hanging a little touch with the whip, he will go along without any trouble.

Now use martingales on a colt when you first ride him; every movement of the head should go right to the bit in the direction in which it is pulled to the reins, without a martingale to change the direction of the head. You can guide the colt much better without it, and without the use of the bit in much less time. Besides, martingales prevent you from pulling his head around if he should try to.

After your colt has been ridden until he is gentle and well accustomed to the bit, you may find it an advantage if he carries his head up, or his nose too far out, to put martingales on him.

You should be careful not to ride your colt so far at first as to beat, weary, or tire him. Get off as soon as you see he is a little fatigued; and let him rest; this will make him kind to you, and prevent him getting stubborn or mad.

THE PROPER WAY TO BIT A COIT.

Farmers often put biting harness on a colt the first thing they do to bucking up the biting as tight as they can draw it to make him carry his head high, and then turn him out in a lot to run a half-day at a time. This is one of the worst punishments that they could inflict on a colt, and very injurious to a young horse that has been used to being in pasture with his head down. I have seen colts so injured in this way, that they have never got over it.

A horse should be well accustomed to the bit before you put on the biting harness, and when you first bit him you should only rein his head up to that point where he naturally holds it, let that be high or low; he will soon learn that he cannot lower his head, and that raising a little will loosen the bit in his mouth. This will give him the head of raising his head to loosen the bit, and then you can draw the biting a little tighter every time you put it on, and he will still raise his head to loosen it; by this means you will gradually get his head and neck in the position you want him to carry it, and give him a nice and graceful carriage without hurting him, making him mad, or causing his mouth to get sore.

If you put the biting on very tight the first time, he cannot raise his head enough to loosen it, but will bear on it all the time, and paw, sweat, and throw himself. Many horses have been killed by falling backward with the biting on; their heads being drawn up strike the ground with the whole weight of the body. Horses that have their heads drawn up tightly should not have the biting on more than ten or twenty minutes at a time.

HOW TO DRIVE A HORSE THAT IS VERY WILD AND HAS ANY VICIOUS HABITS.

Take up one fore foot and bend his knee till his hoof is bottom upwards, and nearly touching his body; then slip a loop over his knee, and up until it comes above the pastern joint, to keep it up, being careful to draw the loop together between the hoof and pastern joint with a second strap of some kind, to prevent the loop from slipping down and coming off. This will leave the horse standing on three legs; you can now handle him as you wish, for it is utterly impossible for him to kick in this position. There is something in this operation of taking up one foot that conquers a horse quicker and better than anything else you can do to him. There is no process in the world equal to it to break a kicking horse, for several reasons. First, there is a principle of this kind in the nature of the horse; that by conquering one member you conquer to a great extent the whole horse.

You have perhaps seen men operate upon this principle by sewing a horse's ears together to prevent him from kicking. I once saw a plan given in a newspaper to make a bad horse stand to be shod, which was to fasten down one ear. There were no reasons given why you should do so; but I tried it several times, and thought that it had a good effect, though I would not recommend its use, especially stitching his ears together. The only benefit arising from this process is, by disarranging his ears we draw his attention to them, and he is not so apt to resist the shoeing. By tying up one foot we operate on the same principle to a much better effect. When you first fasten up a horse's foot he will sometimes get very mad, and strike with his knee, and try every possible way to get it down; but he cannot do that, and will soon give up.

This will conquer him better than anything you could do, and without the possible danger of hurting himself or you either, for you can tie up his foot and sit down and look at him until he gives up. When you find that he is conquered, go to him, let down his foot, rub his leg with your hand, caress him, and let him rest a little; then put it up again. Repeat this a few times, always putting up the same foot, and he will soon learn to travel on three legs, so that you can drive him some distance. As soon as he gets a little used to this way of travelling, put on your harness, and hitch him to a sulky. If he is the worst kicking horse that ever raised a foot, you need not be fearful of his doing any damage while he has one foot up, for he cannot kick, neither can he get enough to do any harm. And, if he is the wildest horse that ever harnessed on, and has run away every time he has been hitched, now hitch him in a sulky, and drive him as you please. And, when you want to run, you can let him have the lines, and the whip too, and he will be perfectly safe, for he can go but a slow gait on three legs, and will not be tired, and willing to stop; only hold him enough to guide him in the right direction, and he will soon be tired and willing to stop at the word. Thus you will effectually cure him at once of any further kicking or running off. Kicking horses have always been the dread of everybody; you always hear men say, when they speak about a bad horse, "I don't care what he does, so he don't kick." This new method is an effectual cure for this worst of all habits. There are many ways by which you can hitch a kicking horse, and force him to stop, though he kicks all the time; but this doesn't have any good effect, and is breaking him, for we know that horses kick because they are afraid of what is behind them, and when they kick against it and it does not move, and they will only kick the harder; and this will hurt them, and make them remember the sore much longer, and make it more difficult to persuade them to have any confidence in anything driving behind them ever after.

But by this new method you can hitch them to a rattling sulky, plough, wagon, or anything else in its worst shape. They may be frightened at first, but cannot kick or do anything to hurt themselves, and will soon find that you do not intend to hurt them, and then they will not care anything more about it. You can then let down the leg, and drive along easily without any further trouble. By this new process, a bad kicking horse can be learned to go gently in harness in a few hours' time.

ON BALKING.

Horses know nothing about balking, only as they are brought into it by improper management, and when a horse balks in harness it is generally from some mismanagement, excitement, confusion, or from not knowing how to pull, but seldom from any unwillingness to perform all that he understands. High-spirited, free-going horses are the most subject to balking, and only so because drivers do not properly understand how to manage this kind. A free horse in a team may be so anxious to go that when he hears the word he will start with a jump, which will not move the load, but give him such a severe jerk on the shoulders that he will fly back and stop the other horse; the teamster will continue his driving without any cessation, and by the time he has the slow horse started again, he will find that the free horse has made another jump and again flown back; and now he has them both badly balked, and so confused that neither of them knows what is the matter or how to start the load. Next will come the slashing and cracking of the whip, and hallooing of the driver, till something is broken or he is through with his course of treatment. But what a mistake the driver commits by whipping his horse for this act! Reason and common sense should teach him that the horse was willing and anxious to go, but did not know how to start the load. And should he whip him for that? If so, he should whip him again for not knowing how to talk. A man that wants to act with any rationality or reason should not fly into a passion, but should always think before he strikes. It takes a steady pressure against the collar to move a load, and you cannot expect him to act with a steady, determined purpose while you are whipping him. There is hardly one balking horse in five hundred that will pull true from whipping; it is only adding fuel to fire, and will make him more liable to balk another time. You always see horses that have been balked a few times, turn their heads and look back, as soon as they are a little frustrated. This is because they have been whipped, and are afraid of what is behind them. This is an invariable rule with balked horses, just as much as it is for them to look around at their sides when they have the bots; in either case they are deserving of the same sympathy and the same kind, rational treatment.

When your horse balks or is a little excited, if he wants to start quickly, or looks around and doesn't want to go—there is something wrong, and he needs kind treatment immediately. Caress him kindly, and if he doesn't understand at once what you want him to do, he will not be so much excited as to jump and break things, and do everything wrong through fear. As long as you are calm, and keep down the excitement of the horse, there are ten chances to have him understand you, where there would not be one under harsh treatment, and then the little *there* would not carry with it any unfavourable recollections, and he would soon forget all about it, and learn to pull true. Almost every wrong act the horse commits is from mismanagement, fear, or excitement; one harsh word will so excite a nervous horse as to increase his pulse ten beats in a minute.

When we remember that we are dealing with dumb brutes, and reflect how difficult it must be for them to understand our motions, signs, and language, we should never get out of patience with them because they don't understand us, or wonder at their doing things wrong. With all our intellect, if we were placed in the horse's situation it would be difficult for us to understand the driving of some foreigner, of foreign ways and foreign language. We should always recollect that our ways and language are just as foreign and unknown to the horse as any language in the world is to us, and should try to practise what we could understand were we the horse, endeavouring by some simple means to work on his understanding rather than on the different parts of his body. All balked horses can be started true and steady in a few minutes' time; they are all willing to pull as soon as they know how, and I never yet found a balked horse that I could not teach to start his load in fifteen, and often less than three, minutes time.

Almost any team, when first balked, will start kindly if you let them stand five or ten minutes as though there was nothing wrong, and then speak to them in a steady voice, and turn them a little to the right or left, so as to get them both in motion before they feel the pinch of the load. But if you want to start a team that you are not driving yourself, that has been balked, fooled and whipped for some time, go to them and hang the lines on their hames, or fasten them to the wagon, so that they will be perfectly loose; make the driver and spectators (if there are any) stand off some distance to one side, so as not to attract the attention of the horses; unloose their check-reins, so that they can get their heads down if they choose, let them stand a few minutes in this condition until you can see that they are a little composed. While they are standing you should be about their heads, gentling them; it will make them a little more kind, and the spectators will think that you are doing something that they do not understand, and will not learn the secret. When you have them ready to start, stand before them, and as you seldom have but one balky horse in a team, get as near in front of him as you can, and if he is too fast for the other horse, let his nose come against your breast; this will keep him steady, for he will go slow rather than run on you; turn them gently to the right, without letting them pull on the traces, as far as the tongue will let them go; stop them with a kind word, gentle them a little, and then turn them back to the left, by the same process. You will have them under your control by this time, and as you turn them again to the right, steady them in the collar, and you can take them where you please.

There is a quicker process that will generally start a balky horse, but not so sure. Stand him a little ahead, so that his shoulders will be against the collar, and then take up one of his forefeet in your hand, and let the driver start them, and when the weight comes against his shoulders, he will try to step; then let him have his foot, and he will go right along. If you want to break a horse from balking that has long been in that habit, you ought to set apart a half-day for that purpose. Put him by the side of some steady horse; have check-lines on them; tie up all the traces and straps, so that there will be nothing to excite them; do not rein them up, but let them have their heads loose. Walk them about together for some time as slowly and lazily as possible; stop often, and go up to your balky horse and gentle him. Do not take any whip about him, or do anything to excite him, but keep him just as quiet as you can. He will soon learn to start off at the word, and stop whenever you tell him.

As soon as he performs rightly, hitch him in an empty wagon; have it stand in a favourable position for starting. It would be well to shorten the stay-chain behind the steady horse, so that if it is necessary he can take the weight of the wagon the first time you start them. Do not drive but a few rods at first; watch your balky horse closely, and if you see that he is getting excited, stop him before he stops of his own accord, caress him a little, and start again. As soon as they go well, drive them over a small hill a few times, and then over a larger one, occasionally adding a little load. This process will make any horse true to pull.

TO BREAK A HORSE TO HARNESS.

Take him in a tight stable, as you did to ride him; take the harness and go through the same process that you did to ride the saddle, until you get him familiar with it, so that you can put it on him, and rattle it about without his caring for it. As soon as he will bear this, put on the lines, caress him as you draw them over him, and drive him about in the stable till he will bear them over his hips. The lines are a great aggravation to some colts, and often frighten them as much as if you were to raise a whip over them. As soon as he is familiar with the harness and lines, take him out and put him by the side of a gentle horse, and go through the same process that you did with the balking horse. Always use a bridle without blinds when you are breaking a horse to harness.

HOW TO HITCH A HORSE IN A SULKY.

Lead him to and around it; let him look at it, touch it with his nose, and stand by it till he does not care for it; then pull the shafts a little to the left, and stand your horse in front of the off wheel. Let some one stand on the right side of the horse, and hold him by the bit, while you stand on the left side, facing the sulky. This will keep him straight. Run your left hand back, and let it rest on his hip, and lay hold of the shafts with your right, bringing them up very gently to the left hand, which still remains stationary. Do not let anything but your arm touch his back, and as soon as you have the shafts square over him, let the person on the opposite side take hold of one of them, and lower them very gently to the shaft bearers. Be very slow and deliberate about hitching; the longer time you take the better, as a general thing. When you have the shafts placed, shake them slightly, so that he will feel them against each side. As soon as he will bear them without searing, fasten your braces, &c., and start him along very slowly. Let one man lead the horse, to keep him gentle, while the other gradually works back with the lines till he can get behind and drive him. After you have driven him in this way a short distance, you can get into the sulky, and all will go right. It is very important to have your horse go gently when you first hitch him. After you have walked him awhile, there is not half so much danger of his searing. Men do very wrong to jump up behind a horse to drive him as soon as they have him hitched. There are too many things for him to comprehend all at once. The shafts, the lines, the harness, and the rattling of the sulky, all tend to scare him, and he must be made familiar with them by degrees. If your horse is very wild, I would advise you to put up one foot the first time you drive him.

HOW TO MAKE A HORSE LIE DOWN.

Everything that we want to teach the horse must be commenced in some way to give him an idea of what you want him to do, and then be repeated till he learns it perfectly. To make a horse lie down, bend his left fore leg and slip a loop over it, so that he cannot get it down. Then put a circle around his body, and fasten one end of a long strap around the other fore leg, just above the hoof. Place the other end under the circle, so as to keep the strap in the right direction; take a short hold of it with your right hand; stand on the left side of the horse, grasp the bit in your left hand, pull steadily on the strap with your right; bear against his shoulder till you cause him to move. As soon as he lifts his weight, your pulling will raise the other foot, and he will have to come on his knees. Keep the strap tight in your hand so that he cannot straighten his leg if he rises up. Hold him in this position, and turn his head towards you; bear against his side with your shoulder, not hard, but with a steady, equal pressure, and in about ten minutes he will lie down. As soon as he lies down, he will be completely conquered, and you can handle him as you please. Take off the straps, and straighten out his legs; rub him lightly about the face and neck with your hand the way the hair lies; handle all his legs, and after he has lain ten or twenty minutes, let him get up again. After resting him a short time make him lie down as before. Repeat the operation three or four times, which will be sufficient for one lesson. Give him two lessons a day, and when you have given him four lessons, he will lie down by taking hold of one foot. As soon as he is well broken to lie down in this way, tap him on the opposite leg with a stick when you take hold of his foot, and in a few days he will lie down from the mere motion of the stick.

HOW TO MAKE A HORSE FOLLOW YOU.

Turn him into a large stable or shed, where there is no chance to get out, with a halter or bridle on. Go to him and gentle him a little, take hold of his halter and turn him towards you, at the same time touching him lightly over the hips with a long whip. Lead him the length of the stable, rubbing him on the neck, saying in a steady tone of voice as you lead him, "Come along, boy!" or use his name instead of "boy," if you choose. Every time you turn touch him slightly with the whip, to make him step up close to you, and then caress him with your hand. He will soon learn to hurry up to escape the whip and be caressed, and you can make him follow you around without taking hold of the halter. If he should stop and turn from you, give him a few sharp cuts about the hind legs, and he will soon turn his head towards you, when you must always caress him. A few lessons of this kind will make him run after you, when he sees the motion of the whip—in twenty or thirty minutes he will follow you about the stable. After you have given him two or three lessons in the stable, take him out into a small lot and train him; and from thence you can take him into the road and make him follow you anywhere, and run after you.

HOW TO MAKE A HORSE STAND WITHOUT HOLDING.

After you have him well broken to follow you, stand him in the centre of the stable—begin at his head to caress him, gradually working backwards. If he move, give him a cut with the whip, and put him back to the same spot from which he started. If he stands, caress him as before, and continue gentling him in this way until you can get round him without making him move. Keep walking around him, increasing your pace, and only touch him occasionally. Enlarge your circle as you walk around, and if he then moves, give him another cut with the whip, and put him back to his place. If he stands, go to him frequently and caress him, and then walk around him again. Do not keep him in one position too long at a time, but make him come to you occasionally, and follow you around the stable. Then stand him in another place, and proceed as before. You should not train your horse more than half an hour at a time.

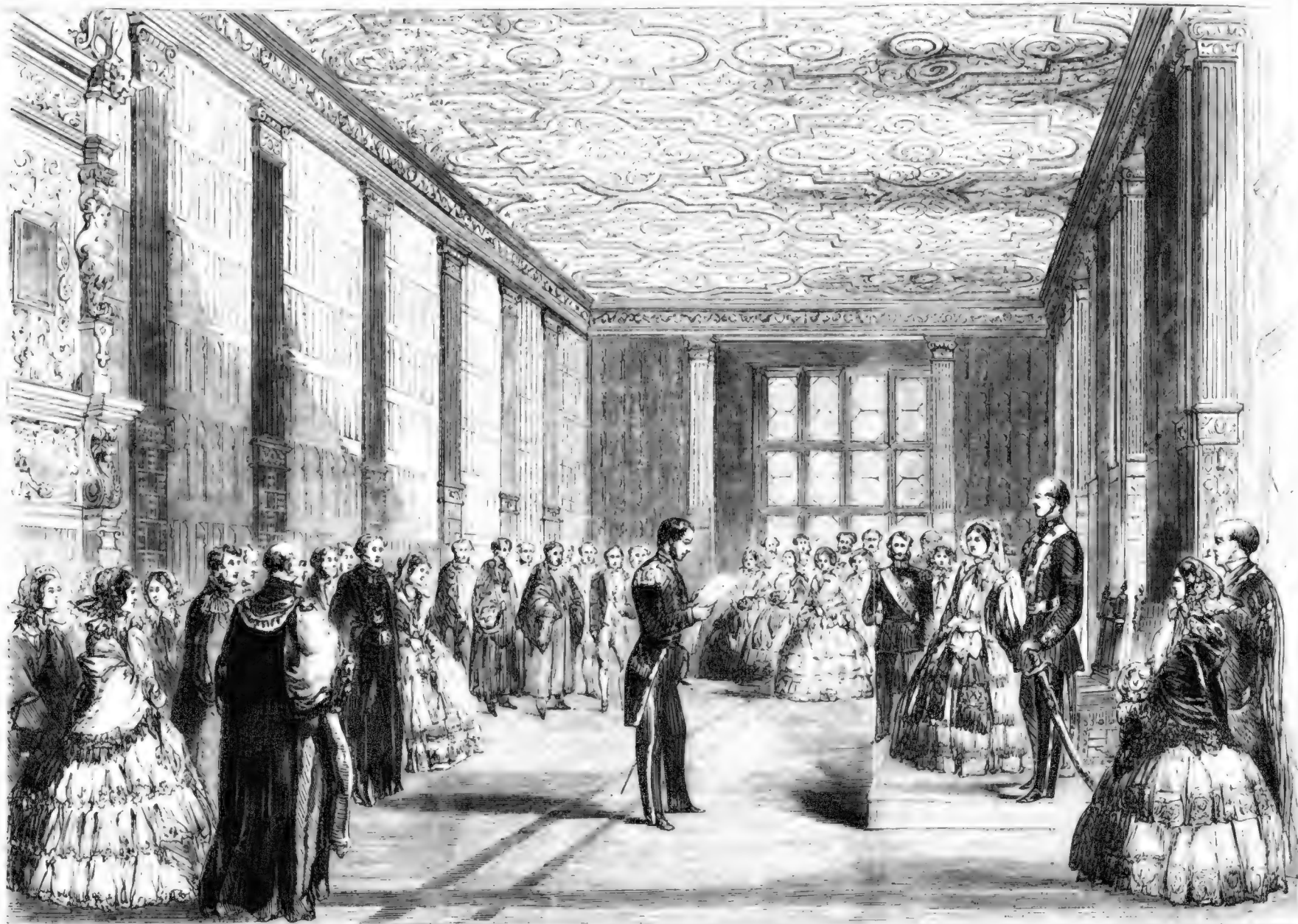
MATRIMONIAL PROSPECTS OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.—To all present appearances, our future monarch's choice of a wife is limited to exactly seven ladies of royal blood—unless, indeed, he selects a consort much older than himself. The following list comprises the only ladies of royal blood who, as Protestants, are eligible for the hand of the Prince of Wales:—1. Princess Alexandra (daughter of Prince Albert of Prussia), born February 1, 1842. 2. Princess Anne of Hesse-Darmstadt, niece of the Grand Duke of Hesse and of the Empress of Russia, born May 25, 1843. 3. Princess Augusta of Holstein-Glücksburg, born February 27, 1844. 4. Duchess Wilhelmina of Württemberg, born July 11, 1844. 5. Princess Alexandra (daughter of Prince Christian) of Denmark, born December 1, 1844. 6. Princess Mary of Saxe-Altenburg, born June 28, 1845. 7. Princess Catherine of Oldenburg, sister of the Grand Duchess Nicholas of Russia, born September 21, 1846. Without venturing upon prophecy, we are disposed to think that No. 5 will be considered the most eligible lady; Prince Christian being heir-presumptive to the Crown of Denmark. The Prince of Wales was born on the 9th of November, 1841; when he attains the age of twenty-one, the Princess Alexandra of Denmark will be nearly eighteen. This list really seems to exhaust all possibilities, should his Royal Highness marry early.

THE ARMY AS A PROFESSION.—Cometries in the Life Guards are at a discount. The "United Service Gazette" says:—"There are, we believe, six or seven cornets' commissions for sale, and no one will purchase in the regiment. Either the expensive style of living operates as a bar to the ambition of poor men, or it is felt that, in the dreary round of duty from Windsor to London and back, varied with a field-day at Wormwood Scrubs or Hounslow, there is not much scope for military enterprise."

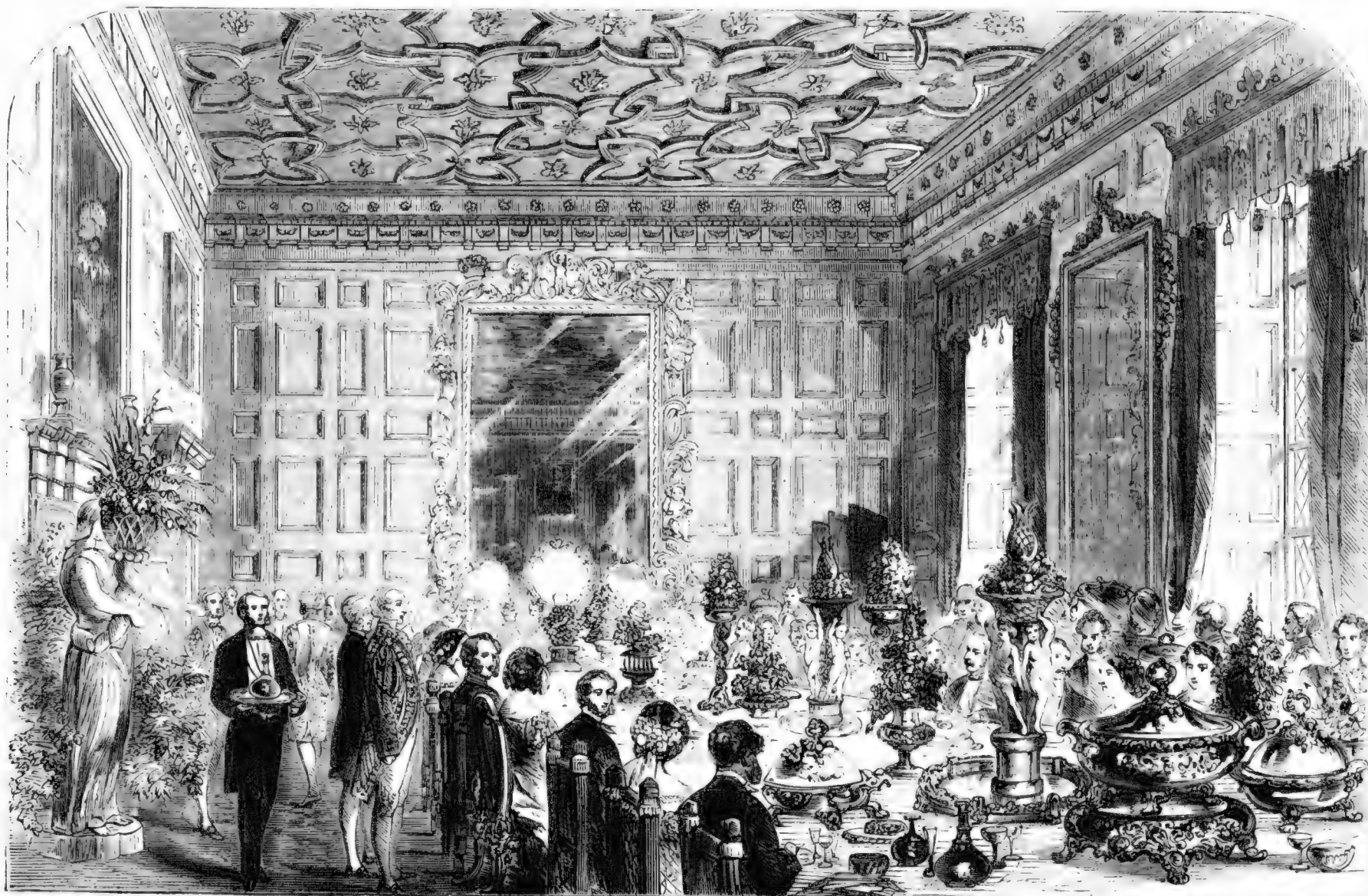
A USEFUL REFORM.—Sir Bulwer Lytton has adopted, in conjunction with the Lords of the Treasury, a reform at the Colonial Office similar to that introduced by Lord Malmesbury into the Foreign Office. The papers of the Colonial Department—including those known as Trade and Plantation papers—are now to be divided into two classes,—the historical and political. The line is drawn at 1688. Writers will in future be free to copy or to abstract any papers prior to that date, without reference to the Secretary of State.

CHINESE EMIGRANTS.—The Californian Legislature has passed a law which excludes all Chinese from entering the State after the 30th of September next. Any sea captain or other person who shall bring such person into the State will be fined from 400 to 600 dollars, or be imprisoned from three to twelve months. Another law places negroes under certain civil disabilities, excluding their testimonies from the courts.

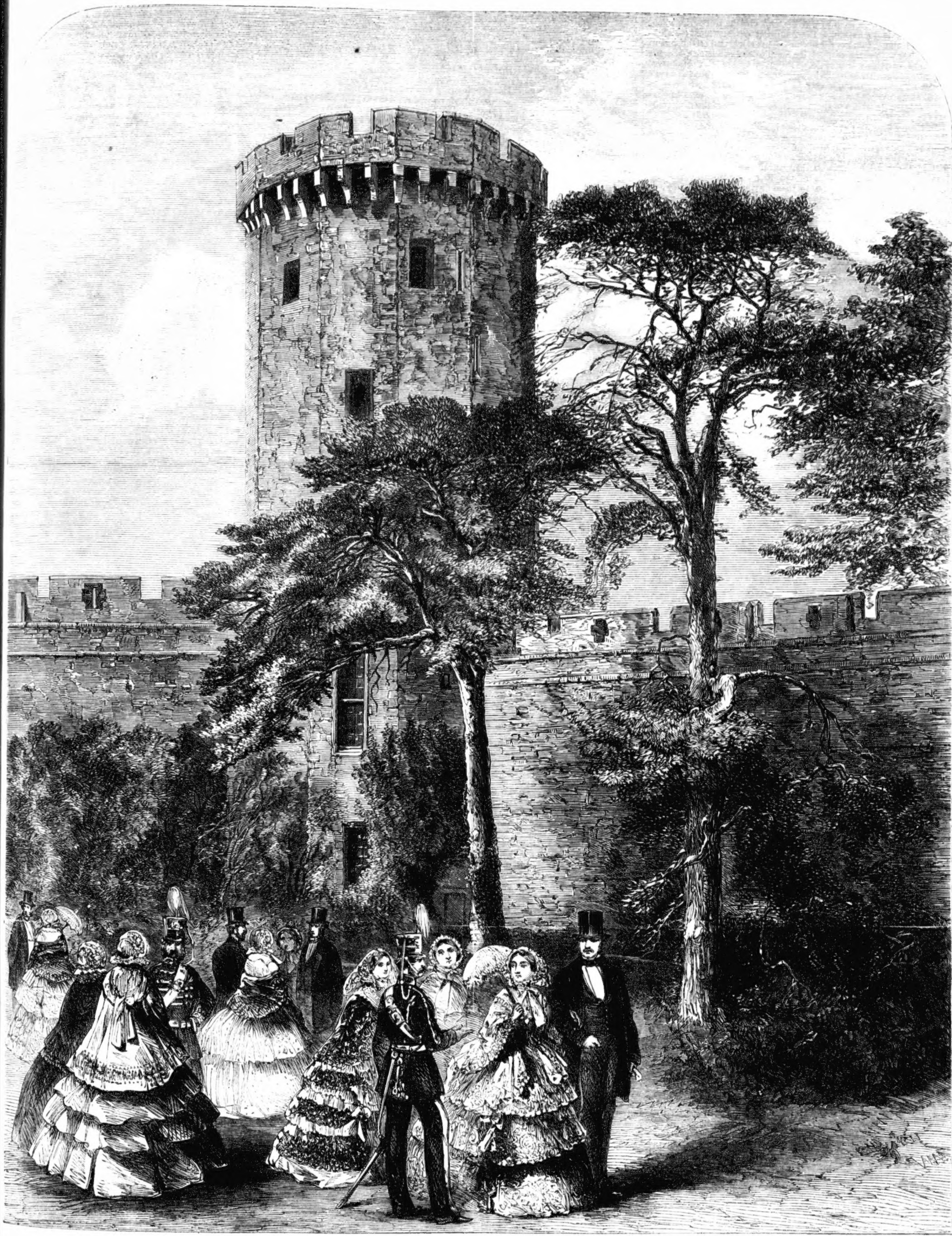
"GET OUT OF THE WAY."—An old woman, sixty-three years of age, of the Place de Lenché, at Marseilles, appeared, three days ago, on the roof of the house in which she lived, which is four stories high, and seating herself on the edge, cried to the people in the street:—"Get out of the way!" and a few seconds after she allowed herself to roll off. She was dreadfully injured by the fall, and died in half-an-hour after.



THE ADDRESS TO HER MAJESTY IN THE LONG GALLERY, ASTON HALL



DEJEUNER TO THE QUEEN IN THE GREAT DINING-ROOM, WARWICK CASTLE.



GUY'S TOWER, WARWICK CASTLE.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO WARWICKSHIRE.

This week we print the last of our sketches illustrative of the Queen's excursion into Warwickshire.

GUY'S TOWER

is one of the most interesting features in Warwick Castle. It contains five tiers of guard-rooms, and thirteen rooms. The second room, called the evidence room, is used for records, and such documents as are valued in great families; and therefore is closed to visitors. The three upper rooms are, however, open to the public, who

have to travel up many weary stairs before they reach them. Whatever fatigue this occasions, is amply compensated by the beautiful view obtained from the battlements. The town, the spires of Coventry, Kenilworth Castle, Guy's Cliff, and Blacklow Hill; the Shropshire Hill; the Saxon Tower on the Broadway Hills; Leamington Spa, and many village churches lifting their spires from embosoming woods—make a picture not to be seen out of prosperous, peaceful England..

THE GREAT GALLERY AT ASTON HALL

we have already described (See No. 168). A hundred and thirty-six

feet in length, eighteen in width, and sixteen in height, it is one of the most magnificent galleries in England. Its principal features are shown in our engraving. The ceiling is very elaborate, and the chimney-piece is the best example of the kind in the house. It was in this room, magnificently furnished in the style of the Jacobian period, that her Majesty received the address of the committee of Aston Hall.

As to the third subject of our sketches the *déjeuner* at Warwick Castle, we need not add a word to the accounts that have already appeared in this journal.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

ENSHRINED in the advertising page of "Bradshaw," and surrounding a wood-cut representing the facade of an enormous mansion on the broad pavement, in front of which stand elegantly-dressed persons of both sexes, is to be found the following advertisement:—"The Brunswick Hotel, St. James's, London. This celebrated establishment is now replete with every comfort for families and gentlemen, and the charges are extremely moderate. Proprietor, Mr. Cox Hughes." This gentleman with the double-barrelled name, is one of those who have greatness thrust upon them, having in the course of the last fortnight achieved an unenviable notoriety in the columns of the "Times" newspaper. A traveller writes to that journal complaining of the monstrous charges at this "extremely moderate" house, and forwards a copy of his bill, clearly bearing out his complaint. To this Mr. Cox Hughes replies in a strain which would have occasioned great laughter if adopted by the "agreeable rattle" in a farce, but which is scarcely in keeping with the position of a person owning a "celebrated establishment" in the hotel business. Other travellers are provoked at this, and substantiate the statements of the first complainant; nothing daunted, Mr. Cox Hughes replies to them in the same jaunty spirit, and eventually in answer to one letter wherein it is stated that an excess in the usual high prices was attempted to be excused by the insertion of the words "Ascot week," in the bill-head, the Boniface of Jermyn Street attempts to justify the claim, and declares that during the Epsom and Ascot race-weeks, the extra charges always have been and always will be made by him! Unlike Dogberry, Mr. Cox Hughes does not request other people to write him down an ass, but himself chronicles the fact in the most public manner. The butcher, baker, candlestick-maker, and other tradesmen do not raise their prices because horse-racing is going on in the neighbourhood of London. Additional rent is not charged for the quarter during which these saturnalia take place. The Brunswick Hotel is not Limmer's, is not particularly renowned in sporting circles, nor is there that peculiar run, I should imagine, on its accommodation during these weeks as to justify any variation in its ordinary tariff of prices. No! Mr. Cox Hughes has managed to grasp the wrong end of the stick with as alacrity and a virulence not uncommon in persons in his position, who imagine themselves "above their station;" and the sooner he gives up letter writing, reduces his prices, makes his celebrated establishment even more replete with every comfort for families and gentlemen, and sinks the would-be factious correspondent in the attractive innkeeper, the better for the prospects of the Brunswick Hotel.

Some generous person, whose name is at present not published, but who has what is now unfortunately a not very general interest in the state of the drama and its professors, has offered the grant of five acres of freehold land for the purpose of founding houses—almshouses is the commoner, but less pleasant phrase—for aged and infirm actors and actresses. "For the purpose of carrying into effect the object contemplated," that is to say, for the discussion of the matter, and with a view to see how in the best manner the necessary funds can be raised, a public meeting will be held at the Princess's Theatre on Wednesday, the 21st instant, at which all desirous of aiding by their presence, advice, and perhaps contributions, this most praiseworthy object, should attend. We cant enough about the low ebb to which the drama has declined, and shake our heads solemnly over the ignorance and absurdity displayed by many of its professors; but very few of us know anything of the real state of things as they exist, fewer still of us think that in a greater recognition of the social status of the actor, in ameliorating his position, and, notably in an instance like the present, giving him this hope that our interest in him exists not only while he is in the heyday of his triumph, but will be carried into his declining years, we are at the same time administering in the highest degree to our own intellectual gratification. At the meeting, the chair will be taken by Mr. Charles Kean, and among the already-published names of the provisional committee, will be found some already well known for their sympathy with theatrical matters, and some the owners of which would not be particularly inconvenienced or put out, if melodramatic entertainment were ever again given within the United Kingdom.

A most ridiculous rumour attributes the frequent visits of the King of the Belgians to this country, to the fact that he is a suitor, and a successful one, for the hand of Princess Mary of Cambridge. "I, too, am seventy, mamma!" may the Royal wooer say, in the slightly altered words of a very natty song. But the intended bride is only twenty-five, and the traditional disagreement between May and December would probably be the result. However, this is of course the merest Court gossip, only fit to be discussed by those fogies, fools, and footmen, by whom such scandal is originated.

Two titled writers have recently died. One, the Earl of Glengall, was a great theatrical man, a member of the Drury Lane Committee, and the author of the "Irish Tutor," an uncommonly funny farce, of the broad "by me sowl" style of Hibernian humour. Lord Glengall was also a frequent contributor some years ago to the magazines. The other death to be recorded is that of Lady Falkland, the last surviving daughter of William IV. and Mrs. Jordan. Lady Falkland's work, "Chow-Chow," pleasant gossip about English life in the East, was published so recently as the spring of last year.

Mr. Albert Smith gave his final entertainment of Mont Blanc on Tuesday evening, and left on Thursday for China, via the Overland Route. He expects to return early in November.

Mr. Charles Dickens commences his tour of provincial readings in the first week of August at Exeter.

I send you a pertinent query from my long-silent correspondent, "Trois Etoiles."

July 3, 1858.

Dear Mr. Lounger,—Why does the "Saturday Review" this week write of a lover being "contemptuously congealed;" for it is hardly such French of Paris as one ought to look for in a journal which in another column expresses a poor opinion of "the low state of Greek scholarship in France?"

Yours obediently,

TROIS ETOILES.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

At her Majesty's Theatre "Nabucco" or "Nino" has been revived or Mademoiselle Spezia, who during the present season has not yet had a single opportunity of singing. We spoke of her performance of Abigail last year. She continues to sing the music very effectively, and to act her part well.

The Royal Italian Opera has produced its great work for the season, and the great work turns out to be a very little one. An opera must be something more than bad not to achieve a success when supported by such singers as Bosio, Didié, Mario, and Graziani. If it contains music that can be sung, they will sing it, and render it beautiful in spite of the composer. Therefore "Martha" will not be a failure, but the scenery, the stage grouping, and, above all, the singing, will do more for its success than the music, which is thoroughly trivial, without being precisely common-place, except in the sentimental portions, where it is certainly nothing else. Flotow—Count von Flotow is, we believe, his correct titular designation—was already known to the English public by his "Stradella" and his "Léoline." The former seems to us by far the best of his three works. "Léoline" is a pretty, graceful, unpretending work, inferior, in some respects, to "Stradella," but superior to "Martha." "Martha" was first played in London eight or nine years ago by the German company, which had the honour of introducing to us the intelligent Herr Fornes, of the powerful but decidedly unmelodious voice. Since then "Martha" has made the tour of Europe. The only difficulty has been to avoid it. Whether it followed the course of rivers, or was wafted along by currents of air, we are unable to say; but for several years it raged on the Continent like the cholera. When it had been all over Germany, it visited England for a few days (without carrying away any one); and it was afterwards heard of in France. Then it went to Russia; and we heard it ourselves the year before last in Moscow. Doubtless it has now penetrated into the East. It has gone with the caravans to China,

and after ravaging the Celestial Empire from north to south, will come out at Canton, and thence return to Europe to attack us on the other side. Perhaps it is by the route we have described that it has already reached London. One thing is certain, that it was produced last week at the Royal Italian Opera, and, as we have already said, with success. And this after Rossini's "Otello," which, though it contains some of the finest music the composer ever produced, was comparatively not a success.

The story of "Martha" is that of "Lady Henriette, or the Statute Fair" (ballet), and of Balle's "Maid of Honour." The plot is simple, interesting, moderately ingenious, and in every way suited to the requirements of an *opéra comique*, which, we may remind some of our readers, is not the same thing as a comic opera. As the scene is laid in England, the libretto is of course full of absurdities, but these absurdities occur only in the details.

Lady Henriette—the rich, the beautiful, the accomplished—is dying from *ennui*, which, in the case of a young lady, never means anything else than this—that she is dying for a lover. Lady Henriette, however, does not discover the truth until near the end of the piece. Her immediate remedy for *ennui* is to go to the statute fair at Richmond, where she appears under the name of Martha, and engages herself to one Lionel, a young farmer, who afterwards turns out to be a young nobleman. Lady Henriette finds out, when it is too late, that, by accepting Lionel's earnest-money, she has become legally his servant for the space of a year. But she escapes from his house, and Lionel, who has become enamoured of his hand-maid, is in despair, when suddenly he meets her near his farm in the garb of a huntress, and surrounded by the ladies and gentlemen of the Court, who regard Lionel as a madman for his persistence in asserting that Lady Henriette is Martha, his servant. Soon afterwards, the lover appears to be qualifying himself seriously for admission to Bedlam. Then, as Lady Henriette has discovered that he is the son of the Earl of Derby (Lord Stanley would, we suppose, be his correct title), she offers him her hand, but he spurns it. Then she offers it to him again, and at last, when she appears in the attire of the servant Martha, he condescends to accept it.

Lionel has a friend who rejoices in the name of "Plumket," and whose chief operative duties consist in singing an air in honour of his friend, and another in praise of beer. The one in praise of beer is the best.

Henriette has also a friend in Nancy (her attendant); and thus we have the regular quartet of lovers, just as in the comedies of the eighteenth century. The chief lovers make love seriously, the minor ones do the same thing comically. Both are right, and both are wrong. The proper style is a mixture of the two.

The parts are distributed as follows:—Lady Henriette, Bosio; Lionel, Mario; Nancy, Didié; Plumket, Graziani. These are the principal and essential characters. Among the incidental ones the most important is that of an English nobleman, who looks something between Falstaff and a Pantaloon, and who is called indifferently Sir Tristan di Mickleford and Lord Tristano. He has a green leg and a white leg, and is represented by Signor Tagliacofe.

After the opening chorus, Lady Henriette and Nancy sing a duet, in polka measure, about the blankness of the former's existence, and the desolate state of her heart. Then Sir Tristan di Mickleford enters, to ask the ladies whether they would like to see a donkey-race? to which, with true German wit, they reply that they would, if *he* intends to run. Then follows a polka, in the shape of a trio for the two ladies and the gentleman. They are interrupted, however, by a chorus of servants, who pass the window, singing a polka, which is the prettiest and most striking of the suite of polkas constituting the first act. In the polka which brings the third scene to a close, Lady Henriette and Nancy amuse themselves at the expense of Sir Tristan di Mickleford, who for some time is unwilling to accompany them to the market. In the fourth scene (second tableau) we are re-introduced to the polka-chorus already heard in the distance, and which is now sung in open market by the male and female servants there assembled. Then Lionel and Plumket enter; and Lionel, hearing his mother's name mentioned by Plumket, makes it an excuse for indulging in a solo, which Mario converts into beautiful music, but which, in the hands of any other singer, would remain something entirely different. In the sixth scene "the Sheriff he will come," as Mr. Samuel Hall sings, and after he has opened the fair, there is a lively picture of the masters engaging the servants (always, however, to the eternal quadruple time). Here we make the acquaintance of Betty, Liddy, and Jally, three English maidens, as the names perhaps sufficiently denote. In due time, Henriette and Nancy make their appearance, and are engaged by Lionel and Plumket, and the curtain falls to a repetition of the principal air—that is to say, polka. In this act, a *divertissement* is played most unnecessarily, not to say absurdly. In a serious opera, the introduction of a few *pas* and of a few ballet airs, is frequently an agreeable change, and serves to relieve the more important music. But dance-music sung, relieved by dance-music danced, is no relief at all.

The second act is less lively than the first, but it contains the well-known spinning-wheel quartet, which is one of the best things in the opera. It is in the second act, too, that Madame Bosio sings with all the purity and expression of which she is capable, and which the air demands, one of the most beautiful melodies that music possesses, and will be co-eternal with music itself. Naturally, this is not the composition of Herr Flotow. It is the "Last Rose of Summer" which Lady Henriette (or Martha) sings to Lionel, while Nancy and herself are still in the house of the young farmer. Madame Bosio commences the air at ten o'clock, and of course has to sing it twice; but it is all over before five minutes past. We mention this for the advantage of those who, without caring about Herr Flotow's polkas, may not wish to lose an opportunity of hearing perfect music perfectly sung.

The third act of "Martha" opens with Plumket's beer-song, well sung, though not with much spirit, by Graziani. The audience *encore* it, whether for the sake of the subject or for the air itself, we are unable to say; probably, however, Graziani's excellent singing has more to do with it than either. Then comes a lively polka for Nancy, which, we believe, was added to the part, in order to make it worthy of Mademoiselle Didié. Poor Mademoiselle Didié!

Lionel enters singing the "Last Rose," which haunts him as it must haunt every one who has heard it sung by Madame Bosio. Then follows the tenor's great air, "M'appari." It is exactly in the style of that sickly sentimental French tune, "Les Feuilles Mortes," and is scarcely worthy of a place in one of Etienne Arnaud's annual albums. The composer has amused himself (as he again does in the new air for Graziani in the fourth act) by introducing an abrupt change of key, which is his mode of producing effect; and Mario, with the same intention, introduces on his own account a B flat from the chest. But what saves the air, and indeed causes it to be endured, is the genuine passion with which Signor Mario gives the concluding strophe, "Marta, Marta, tu sparisti." It is not the notes of the composer, but the deeply sympathetic tones of the singer, that produce the success. Madame Bosio's music in this act is not worth speaking of. If she were to sing her scales, or a series of intervals, we should listen to her with pleasure; but, putting the Irish melody on one side, she has never appeared to so little advantage as in this opera of "Martha." The finale to the third act is carefully written in the dramatic or melodramatic style, and contains some violent effects initiated from Verdi.

In the fourth act there is a duet for the tenor and soprano, in which the influence of Verdi is still more noticeable. Of the new air for Graziani, with which this act opens, we have already spoken. All that we can say in its favour is that Graziani sings it admirably.

In conclusion, this opera is worth seeing, and portions of it are worth hearing, but it ought never to have been produced at the Royal Italian Opera.

The Choral Festival at the Crystal Palace attracted even more persons than were present at the Handel Celebration. The appearance of the audience and of the two thousand five hundred executives was the most remarkable part of the entertainment. The music was undoubtedly fine (it was of the most varied character, ranging from

Handel, Gluck, and the Hundredth Psalm, to the prayers from "Moss" and "Masaniello,") but music in the Crystal Palace is lost. It would be heard to greater advantage out of doors, provided the executors stood on the ground, but while they are suspended in mid-air, and while the flood of sound, instead of being compressed on every side by walls, is suffered to mingle with the atmosphere of all the interior, neither two thousand five nor five thousand two hundred will produce the effect which might naturally be expected from such numbers.

THE GOVERNMENT have commissioned Mr. Sercleny, the inventor and patentee of a composition for preserving stone and iron from injury by atmospheric agency, to apply his material to such portions of the walls of the new Houses of Parliament as may require it.

A WINDOW OF STAINED GLASS, by Hardman, of Birmingham, representing the good Centurion at the foot of the Cross, has been placed in the chapel of Rugby School to the memory of the Rugbymen who fell in the Crimean war.

A STEAM YACHT, L'ÉCLAIR, constructed for the Emperor of Russia, has been launched at Bordeaux.

A MOST EXTRAORDINARY PIG recently appeared on the farm of a Mr. Randall, at the Brickfield, Cuxton. "First, it has an elephant's trunk; secondly, a horse's eye in the centre of the head; and, thirdly, a regular rhinoceros' lip. It has camel's feet, and the body of a pig."

LAW AND CRIME.

MANY years ago, the name of Thellusson became legally famous in connection with a certain Act of Parliament, limiting the power of persons making wills to direct accumulations of their property. It was by the "Thellusson Act" directed that a testator should only have the power of bequeathing the accumulation of his estate, at the utmost, for a life or lives in being, and one and twenty years afterwards. The immediate cause of this act was a singular testament by a Mr. Thellusson, directing that his estate should be accumulated during the lives of his children and grand-children, and only distributed among his posterity upon the death of the last of his descendants living at the testator's decease. The act referred to, not being retrospective, only prevented similarly arbitrary bequests for the future, leaving Mr. Thellusson's will to stand to work out its own results. The accumulation thereunder, by repeated dividends, amounted to an enormous sum. A supposed devise of a similar character may be remembered as having formed the basis of M. Eugene Sue's "Wandering Jew." However, in Mr. Thellusson's case the cruel absurdity of the will defeated its own object, for the principal portion of the spoil appears to have been employed in litigation not yet at an end. But Mr. Thellusson did some good by his act. He procured a statutory enactment limiting the power of a man to dispose of his property in that world which he is about to leave.

Mr. Humphrey Brown, late director of the Royal British Bank, has received her Majesty's pardon, after an imprisonment of nearly six months, during which his health appears to have suffered. A petition in his favour received 747 signatures. It does not, however, appear whether Mr. Brown owes his discharge to the injustice of his sentence or to internal inflammation. His comrades, Mr. Owen and Alderman Kennedy, have already been released. Mr. Glover, lately committed for an alleged false statement of qualification for a seat in Parliament, has also been liberated, on a report as to his health. In his case it is fair to state that eight of the jury who tried him, announce that they have now reason to believe Mr. Glover innocent of the charge against him, as actually possessing the qualification which he claimed.

There are certain well-known houses in London, the last ragged remnants of the traditions of the old "Tom and Jerry" days, resorts to which, as a rule, no London "man about town" ever enters, not perhaps from any particular idea of morality or decency, but simply because there is not the feeblest glimmer of amusement, rational or otherwise, to be had there. They are just the haunts of blackguards, and blackguards are about the most thoroughly uninteresting animals in the range of natural history. How, then, are these dens kept up? By a constant stream of rustic gents, and (we regret to have to say) of silly under-graduates, who fancy a visit to such places enlightens them with respect to "Life in London." Of course, the idea is perfectly fallacious. The simpletons go there, get drunk, spend their money, enjoy probably the satisfaction of being pummelled or robbed, and fancy they have done the correct thing. Two gentlemen, who apparently knew no better, went after midnight during the past week into a notorious establishment, known as Jessop's. When they were leaving, two bottles of champagne were uncorked, and their contents passed round. The two visitors were called upon to pay for the wine, which they had not ordered, and on their refusal to disburse, they were attacked by a gang of pugilists, women and waiters, and brutally ill-treated, being suffered at length to depart only upon a pecuniary compromise. Half-a-dozen of their assailants were captured by the police, and subsequently fined five pounds each. It was stated that the den had a "free vintner's license," which rendered the police powerless to suppress its disorders, but this statement has been contradicted by a correspondent of the "Times," who shows that by the statute 2 and 3 Victoria, cap. 47, sec. 41, free vintners are placed under the same police supervision as other licensed victuallers. The act referred to is entitled "An Act for the further improving the Police in and near the Metropolis." The statement of the "Times" is correct, so far as the power of the police to repress disorder, and of the magistrate to fine the offenders in case of misconduct, is concerned. But such houses appear, nevertheless, to be independent of the magistrates, with respect to the withholding or the forfeiture of the licence. A well-directed series of fines would nevertheless probably meet the evil, and render the system unprofitable.

The grand jury of the Central Criminal Court made, on Tuesday last, a thoroughly sensible and practical presentment. They suggested that grand juries might, in future, be called upon only to take cognizance of cases not committed by police magistrates, and also of political offences. They recommended that more urgent steps should be taken, by means of modification of punishment, to induce criminals to plead guilty before magistrates, thus saving time, trouble, and expense to prosecutors and the country. They urged the necessity of additional reformatories, and of more active operations in those already existing. And they especially represented that brutal assaults upon children should be dealt with stringently. The Recorder promised that the presentment should be forwarded to the proper quarter.

THE MURDER AT DAGENHAM.

GEORGE BLEWITT has been again examined on the charge of being implicated in the murder of George Clarke, a police-constable, who was found murdered in a corn-field at Dagenham, in July, 1846.

The principal witness, Smith, was brought into the court, and her evidence was read over to her, when certain parts were erased by order of the bench.

On cross-examination, she said—I never mentioned the fact of the murder to any one till last August. I first divulged it to Mrs. Noble and a Mrs. Palmer, of Dagenham. I was quite sober at the time, and had only had half a pint of beer. I have said that my husband's ghost followed me about. I saw him in three different cottages, and my eyes were wide open. I could see him as plain as noonday, but I did not speak to him. My husband told me in the hospital that if I said anything, he would rise from the grave and curse me. I have told Mrs. Woolmer that when I have been taking my meals, I have felt the devil tapping the bottom of the chair. Through his threats to me, I have really believed that the visitations were through the devil from my husband. I have charged my husband with stealing seven sacks of potatoes. I know a Mrs. March and a Mrs. Palmer. I don't recollect telling Mrs. March that I never went into Blewitt's house on the night of the murder, but I ran under an apple tree.

The case was again remanded.

THE POISONER PALMER AND HIS ASSURANCES.—The Prince of Wales Assurance Company has at length obtained an order from the Master of the Rolls for canceling the policy of assurance obtained by William Palmer upon the life of his brother Walter for £13,000. An attempt was made by his solicitor to establish the validity of this policy against the company, and apply its proceeds first to the discharge of Walter Palmer's debts, and the balance for the benefit of his mother. His mother, from the outset, refused to take any part in these proceedings.

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M^R. CHARLES DICKENS writes R-a-j, at St. Martin's Hall, on Wednesday afternoon, July 11, at three o'clock (for the last time), his CHRISTMAS CAROL, on Thursday evening, July 15th, at eight o'clock (for the last time) the FOUR TRAVELLER BOOTS AT THE HOLLY TREE INN, and MEN GAMP—stills (numbered and reserved, 3s.; as usual galleries, 2s. 6d.: unreserved seats, 1s.). Tickets to be had at Messrs. CHAPMAN and HALL'S, Publishers, 189, Piccadilly, and at all

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